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REPORT
ON THE
CRIME OF THUGGEE BY MEANS OF POISONS

IN
BRITISH TERRITORY

FOR THE YEARS
1864, 1865, AND 1866.

BY
COLONEL CHARLES HERVEY, C. B.
General Superintendent of Operations for the Suppression of Thuggee and Dacoity

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From

COLONEL CHARLES HERVEY, C. B.,
*General Superintendent of Operations for
the Suppression of Thuggee and Dacoity.*

To

E. C. BAYLEY, ESQUIRE,
*Secretary to the Government of India,
Home Department.*

Dated Simla, 1st August 1868.

SIR,

In continuation of the Series of Statistical Papers (Dacoity Statements,) forwarded under my letter under date 30th April, No. 344; I have now the honor to submit Statements for the crime of Thuggee, whether by poison or by strangulation, for the same three years, 1864, 1865 and 1866, of occurrence in Districts under British Administration.

2. Owing to the absence of detailed reports in such cases, and to a general hesitation on the part of District Officers, or for want of definite instructions, in determining in what manner to mark them off in their Returns, I have not been enabled to give that statistical fulness to these Statements, which perhaps characterized the Dacoity Papers. For it will be observed in the body of the Remarks against the several Districts in which the crime occurred, that while some Officers properly recognized *as cases of Thuggee*, those instances of crime which manifested indications of their being the deed of adepts, although strangulation should not have been resorted to, there were others who did not do so except death had ensued,—some who returned some murders as Thuggee without reference to the means which were resorted to,—others who passed by poisoning cases altogether whether death ensued or not, even although they evidenced symptoms of being class crime,—others who noticed some cases of the crime and passed by others,—some who drew some kind of distinction between the different degrees of poisoning and endeavoured to draw a line of demarcation between cases of “murder by poison” (some calling this *Thuggee*, some not,) “attempts to murder by poison,” “robbery by poison,” “poisoning for the sake of robbery,” “grievous hurt by poison,” “poisoning with hurt” and so on,—others who massed offences of various kinds under lump figures and merely quoted against them the Sections of the Indian Penal Code under which they severally were tried, among which were Sections under which the criminal use of poisons as a means for committing an offence, might or might not be recognized—thus leaving to conjecture any decision on the subject on the part of a Statist—while some again left unnoticed even cases of death by strangling. Instances of this incongruence, are furnished in the Statements in the column of Remarks.

3. I might thus have avoided, without blame, the preparation of any Returns at all. But, as Government is aware, I have long been impressed with the seriousness of this crime of poisoning, of which I have so frequently submitted that the danger of its gaining head was in proportion with the difficulty of its detection,—and I therefore considered that it altogether belonged to me to place to view the extent of its *reported* existence in the different Governments and Administrations comprising the Government of India, that is to say, inasmuch as I was enabled to do so by the data at my disposal. For under the different views formed of the crime, I was not able to depend upon receiving any very steady reports of the occurrence of it, and experience too, had taught me, that in the majority of instances, perhaps no report of it would be made at all, *even to District Officers themselves* (as evidenced under Bengal,) except death should have been the unhappy result,—and that even then, death would often be attributed to anything but poisoning! In order, therefore, to prepare any Returns at all, I had

to search through the several Police Administration Reports, and these papers are the result of the examination.

4. I have to regret that the information at my disposal, should not have enabled me to draw up any Statistics of the crime such as I was able to submit with the Dacoity Statements. The reason for this is explained in the Column of Remarks,—and I would observe that although *every* case of poisoning or of strangling, has been embodied in these papers, I would by no means affirm, that all were cases of *Thuggee*;—for it has on the contrary, been shewn, which of them might (with the information obtained respecting them,) be classed as cases committed by the professional criminal and which not, whenever I have been able to arrive at such a discrimination.

5. But while every case of poisoning or of strangling which was to be noticed in the Reports from which all were gathered, has been entered in these Statements, those cases which were palpably *not* the deed of class criminals, have been excluded from the reckoning and have not been confounded with cases which either were or might reasonably be supposed to have been perpetrated by persons who committed the crime for the sake of robbery.—For this was no light question,—and I trust that the preparation of these Statements such as they are, will be approved of by Government.

6. The measure has, however, been one of experiment only. For I have supposed that Government, perceiving that it fell short of conveying the complete information which ought to be available, would issue some orders according to which *future* Statements should be fuller of details,—and this might perhaps be ensured by District Officers being required to keep a register of *every* act of poisoning or of strangulation, *whatever the attendant circumstances*, briefly narrating those circumstances and noticing the Police action in each case and its results. If it were further directed that the documents so prepared, should be forwarded every six months to this Office, for the information of the Government of India, that analyzed Statement might be prepared from them, which the heinousness of the crime altogether requires should be periodically placed before Government,—and in furtherance of this object, I would

also propose that Inspectors General of Police be required to add to their crime Tables the Columns noted in the margin, shewing the number of each case of the classifications denoted therein.

| POISONING. | | | | | | |
|--|------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|--------|
| WITH MURDER. | | With robbery. | For the sake of but without robbery. | THROUGH REVENGE OR MOTIVES OTHER THAN OF ROBBERY. | | Total. |
| For the sake of robbery. | Otherwise. | | | With intent to murder. | Without intent to murder. | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| | | | | | | |
| <p>N. B. The above does not contemplate any separate column for "attempt to commit murder,"—for the cases in which death did not ensue, would be entered either in columns 3 and 4, or in column 6, according to the circumstances attending them.</p> | | | | | | |

7. In stating that the occurrence of the crime was not always reported, I have instanced the cases in Bengal. Many acts of poisoning took place in that Province, of which the Police knew nothing, although some of them had resulted in the deaths of the victims. It was discovered early in 1865, that the crime was becoming serious in certain parts of Bengal, and at the recommendation of the Inspector General of Police, the late Colonel

Bruce, an Officer was specially employed to investigate them, and was placed in communication with myself. Perceiving in Mr. Reily, the Gentleman appointed, a valuable coadjutor, I invited him to communicate with me without reserve, and tendered to him my advice and counsel as freely; and although the course pursued by me in considering him in a measure

under my personal directions and making use of him accordingly, did not for a special reason, meet with approval from the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal, the result of our connection was nevertheless most gratifying. A great deal *more* of the existence of the crime in Bengal, was discovered, than I had anticipated. Cases, *several attended with murder*, were brought to light in 1865, of occurrence in 1864 and preceding years, *of which sometimes not even a record existed!* Mr. Reily prosecuted them in person with great tact and intelligence, and even gained from the Judges of the High Court, a high encomium for detective ability. A great many of the criminals were arrested and convicted, and several of them were executed or transported for life or for shorter periods. This shewed the utility of extraneous pressure, little however my own part in it might have been. The subject has been noticed in the column of Remarks for Bengal in the Statement for 1865, and Mr. Reily's proceedings and success are recounted in two Appendices to the Statements for 1865 and 1866, both replete with painful interest. He was, I am happy to add, soon subsequently advanced to the grade of a Deputy Inspector General of Police.

* 8. In my Report in the Foreign Department, No. 794, dated 15th September 1863 (para. 20.) I submitted to notice some cases of poisoning by returned Emigrants from the Mauritius, and that it was believed that the crime was practised in that Island by fugitives from India. It was not at the time considered necessary to act upon my suggestion to ascertain from the Mauritius Government, whether this was really so. The recurrence, however,

*Vide especially, cases 3 and 5 under Benares in the Statement for 1861, and a case under Behar in that for 1866

of similar cases in this Country, the deed of returned Emigrants, will be observed in the present Papers.*—According to the information of this Department, men from Oudh and the North Western Provinces, have from time to time, gone as Coolies to the Mauritius and other oceanic Colonies, who committed both Dacoity and Poisoning, and it is stated by some of our *Passée* Approvers of the poisoning class, that an Emigration Agent from Calcutta engaged at random, a few years ago at Lucknow, a great number of persons for shipment as Coolies beyond the Sea, among whom were several Dacoits and Dhatoora Thug Poisoners. We know that in India men who practised Dacoity, have, for want of opportunities to commit it, turned their hands to the more secret and less easily detected crime of Poisoning, of which probably some instances may be discernible in the present Statements, under Oudh.—*If the opportunity offers they will revert to Dacoity*, and some facilities for doing so, may have been presented in the Colonies, should the report be correct that both crimes have appeared in the Mauritius. The indiscriminate deportation of such or other criminals, might, however, be in some degree checked, were a system observed of instituting an enquiry through our local Magistrates, into the character of the persons who offered themselves as Coolies to Emigration Agents.

9. It will be further perceived, that these Statements also present some cases of the crime of Poisoning, in which the accused escaped conviction, although the poison reasonably believed to have been employed by him for criminal purposes, was found in his possession.—Of this a remarkable instance will be found in the Statement for 1866, under the District of Etah, in the North Western Provinces. The Prisoner in that case, declared he used the substance (which was *Dhatoorah*) *as medicine for sick Cattle*. Others have similarly asserted that *they were themselves in the habit of taking that drug*.—The device is a very common one.—When those “mysterious cases” as they were called, occurred in Oonao in Oudh, in 1860 and 1861, in which corpses were found on the high road, with knotted strings fastened round the neck,—of which I may here observe, there would seem to be a reappearance in the same neighbourhood as well as elsewhere,—under an impression that *poisoners* were probably the culprits, who first had drugged their victims and then had tied on the cords as above *in order to baffle detection*—or in other words, to induce a belief that Thug Stranglers had been at work in an unprofessional way, *and not expert Thug Poisoners*—I suggested to Magistrates to require the Police to look out for men in the garb of religious mendicants, who should put up at *Serais* or other resting places, and to search their persons in view to the discovery of poison or other noxious substance, upon some at least of them. Upon this a *Byragée*, as he pretended

to be, was arrested on his return to Cawnpore, who had, after a very short stay at the *Serai* at that place, been perceived to go over into Oudh across the adjacent Ganges, leaving behind him, however, a bundle composed seemingly, of tattered clothes only, too miserable looking, he thought, to excite any suspicion.—Called upon to account for some seeds of the *Dhatoora* found tied up in a corner of one of the old garments, he unhesitatingly declared *that he used the drug as medicine* and at once raised his hand as if to eat some of it on the spot. • In this he was prevented by the sitting Magistrate, by whom he was thereupon sent over to my Assistant, Major Chamberlain, at that time located at Lucknow, where, on his making the same proposal, he was in view to put him to the test, even permitted to do what he had offered. Nothing daunted, *he forthwith swallowed some of the seeds* to the dismay of the above Officer. Insensibility had already partially set in before the usual antidotes could be applied. On his being restored to consciousness, however, the further to disconcert beholders, he at once remonstrated at the measures taken for reviving him, declaring, as the *Hasheesh Eater* we may suppose would do, that “he was just getting into the glory of the thing!”—Transferred eventually to myself, he disclosed to me a long list of acts of Poisoning and of Dacoity both on land and river, in which he had taken part, and revealed too, among other like barbarities, that he was one of the infuriated band by whom Mr. St. George Tucker of the Bengal Civil Service, was beset and finally murdered in his Bungalow at Futtehpore on the outbreak of the Mutiny in 1857, and that he had even received a bullet in his leg, from the seldom erring Rifle of that brave Man. I here only revert to this anecdote, in connection with the subject of the expediency of a Law making it *penal* to be found to possess, without a license, the deleterious things commonly used by Poisoners, such as I had ventured to propose for enactment in my letter to your address, No. 930, under date 13th September 1865.—I believe an objection to such a Law was urged in the fact that *Dhatoora*, for instance, was often used by Natives for medicinal purposes.—If justice should be defeated by these detestable criminals making use of the same argument in support of their innocence, it were weakness for us to urge it too, if through it they should be saved from punishment! It is the well known character of the Thug, to make that rule which would be evidence in our Courts of Law,—and for him to advance that in his defence, which he knows we are ourselves so tenacious about,—for him to declare that he kept poison by him *to use it as medicine*, because we say that it *is* used by Natives for such a purpose *and may therefore be possessed by them*, is altogether to sustain that character and to overreach us. As submitted, however, in my letter under advertence, the inconvenience of a prohibitory Law of the scope advocated by me, to those who really used drugs for curative purposes, would affect a very few, in comparison with the very many whom the restriction would protect. They who required such things for honest aims, would suffer little from the mere trouble of having to seek permission to possess them, while the effect upon those who wanted them for criminal ends, would at least be, that they would in some measure be deterred from too readily using them, lest they should be discovered *unlawfully* to have them.

10. That the old crime of Thuggee by strangulation, has been superseded by that of *poisoning*, is, I believe, now generally admitted,—or it would be admitted from the information presented by these Statements alone, if former Reports had not sufficiently established the fact,—and it is only in continuation of my very earnest efforts for the suppression of the dreadful evil, that I have ventured to come up to Government with these proposals,—an evil accomplished by secret means at once diabolical and cowardly, and which if it should not be attended with the destruction of life in every case, the destruction thereof is so far contemplated, that the purpose being effected, namely, the robbery of the victim, it is of no concern to the criminal whether the man dies or not,—his recovery being on the other hand, often attended with the sacrifice of his intellect or of his bodily health,—and under these conditions I humbly commend these Statements to the consideration of Government.

I have the honor to be,
SIR,
Your Most Obedient Servant,

CHAS. HERVEY, Colonel,
General Superintendent.

STATEMENT
OF
THUGGEE BY MEANS OF POISON, &c.,
• IN
BRITISH DISTRICTS
FOR THE
YEAR 1864.

STATEMENT of reported Cases of Thuggee by means of Poison in British Districts during the year 1864.

| GOVERNMENTS OR ADMINIS- TRATIONS. | NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH NO CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER AND NAMES OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER OF CASES. | REMARKS. |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|------------------|--|
| | | | | |
| BENGAL. | | (1) BHAUGULPORE ... | 4 | <p>POLICE ADMINISTRATION REPORT :—"There were <i>four</i> cases of adminis- tering stupifying drugs, three of which were successfully dealt with by Police, and convictions obtained. This is one bright spot in the whole Return."</p> <p>MEMO:—(No account of the number of persons arrested and convicted in these cases, or of the other usual details, is to be perceived in the Police Administration Report.)</p> <p>POLICE ADMINISTRATION REPORT :—"There were 4 cases of adminis- tering poisonous drugs for the purpose of robbery, and another case in which two bodies were found in a state which leaves little doubt of a similar crime having been committed. A special Officer of the Detective Department has been deputed to investigate this crime and has met with great success. His proceedings, however, belong to the present year (1865.)"—No details given of the persons arrested, convicted, &c.</p> <p>Three of these cases, 8th July, 31st August and 10th October 1864, were worked out by Mr. Reily, Superintendent of the Detective Agency, in communication with the General Superintendent of the Thuggee and Dacoity Department, viz :—</p> <p>(1) Mr. Reily to Colonel Hervey, General Superintendent.—Case 8th July 1864 at Rancee Godoh :—"Four persons poisoned, who recovered : Plundered Rs. 225-0-0 : Concerned 2 persons : Arrested 2. This case oc- curred in July 1864, <i>the Police could make nothing of the case.</i> A Head Constable was punished for attempting to conceal the case. The District Superintendent was requested by me to send for all persons who had been drugged in his district for the last year or two. The two first named (plaintiffs Rajjub Sing and Munrote Sing) were produced. On their being taken to the Magistrate's <i>Hajut</i> (Lock up.) they readily recognized Soodin and Beharee as the two men who had drugged them. This case was also mentioned at the Sessions."</p> <p>(2) Mr. Reily to ditto.—Case 31st August 1864 at Mahadabah :— "Two persons poisoned, who recovered : Plundered Rs. 15-0-0 : Concerned 2 persons : Arrested two. This case occurred in August 1864, <i>the Police failed altogether in tracing the criminals.</i> On my arrival at Monghyr, I requested the District Superintendent of Monghyr to send for all of the men who had been drugged during the last year or two. Kenoo (one of the plaintiffs in this case) was produced, and was taken by me to the Magis- trate's <i>Hajut</i>, where at least 40 or 50 prisoners were under confinement. He examined every one and at once picked out Soodin and Beharee as the two men who had drugged him. The description he gave at the time, which is in the record in the case, corresponds exactly with Soodin and Beharee. Kenoo appeared as a witness in the Sessions Trial against Soodin and Beharee."</p> <p>MEMO :—(These two criminals were sentenced to death for a similar case of poisoning in April 1865, at the Bahir Chowker, in the district of Monghyr, in which two persons died of the drugs administered to them—<i>Vide</i> Statement for 1865.)</p> <p>(3) Mr. Reily to ditto.—Case 10th October 1864 at Burriarpore :— "Two persons poisoned, who died : Plundered Rs. 50 : Concerned 4 persons : Arrested 3. Two men, Rajbullub and Sookreen, have confessed to this case, and in their confession the record has been traced which corroborates their statements completely. It appears 4 or 6 men belonging to the Koomargunge gang, were out on a poisoning expedition. Gurboo Sha drugged two travellers near the bridge at Burriarpore. The travellers went about a mile and fell down. On robbing them they found cash and some <i>attar of roses</i> in a flask, &c. The Record shows that 2 travel- lers were found dead at Burriarpore on the 10th October 1864, evidently poisoned. On enquiry it turned out that they were the servants of a Scent Merchant at Ghazee-pore, and one of them <i>had a flask of attar of roses</i> when he left the boat. This is a singular corroboration of a con- fession. Gurboo Sha has been arrested, and in his house has been found a flask of attar of roses, with a small quantity still in it. The case is still under investigation and promises well. The merchant from Ghaze- pore and the boatmen have been sent for. <i>The local Police failed entirely at the time.</i>"</p> <p>MEMO :—(Of the three prisoners in this case, one named <i>Gurboo Sha</i> was hanged, another <i>Dwaree</i> was transported for life, and the third <i>Sook Lall</i> was sentenced to 3 years' imprisonment.)</p> |
| | 51 | (2) MONGHYR ... | 5 | |
| | | | | |
| Ind. } ver } | 51 | 2 DISTRICTS ... | 9 | |

| GOVERNMENTS OR ADMINISTRATIONS. | NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH NO CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER AND NAMES OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER OF CASES. | REMARKS |
|---------------------------------|--|---|------------------|---|
| | | | | |
| BENGAL. | 51 | 2 DISTRICTS... | 9 | <p>POLICE ADMINISTRATION REPORT:—"Three cases of administering poisonous drugs for the purpose of robbery, occurred during the end of the year. The Head of the Detective Department has been specially deputed to investigate these cases, and his efforts have been crowned with remarkable success."</p> <p>MEMO:—The Report does not give any account of the number of persons arrested in these cases, or of how they were disposed of.</p> <p>There was no mention of these cases in the Reports received in this Office from Mr. Reily of the special Detective Agency.</p> <p>POLICE ADMINISTRATION REPORT:—"In the remaining 3 cases of murder (<i>two of</i> which were cases of poisoning,) defendants were arrested, but the cases fell through, owing to defective evidence."</p> <p>MEMO:—These two cases do not appear among those reported to this Office by the Superintendent of the Detective Agency.</p> <p>Taken from Table C of Police Report for 1865, in which the cases for that year (9 in number) are compared with the number in 1864, and in which the crime is classed as "causing hurt by means of poison with intent to commit offence." Fourteen persons were arrested in these seven cases, of whom 3 were convicted and 11 were released.</p> <p>MEMO:—No Police Report for Calcutta for 1864 was received in this Office.</p> <p>The following is the only account received in this Office of any of the above cases, viz:—</p> <p>October 1864 at Kolah Bagan in Calcutta:—Name of the victim Goolab prostitute, who recovered: Implicated 1 person: Arrested 1 "Pecro arrested, who has been identified by Goolab." No further notice of the case was communicated.</p> |
| | | (3) PATNA ... | 3 | |
| | | (4) BOGRA ... | 2 | |
| | | (5) TOWN AND SUBURBS OF CALCUTTA ... | 7 | |
| | | | | |
| TOTAL | 51 | 5 DISTRICTS ... | 21 | <p>In a General Annual Return of Crime for the whole of the districts of Bengal (Assam excepted,) for the year ending on the 31st December 1864, "two cases of Thuggee, &c., are given, in which Rs. 30-4-0 were "stolen," but without any other details. Whether they are identical with any of the cases above noticed, or are additional cases, does not appear, no separate mention of them being made anywhere else throughout the Police Administration Report for 1864.</p> <p>(End of Bengal for 1864)</p> |
| NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES. | 16 | (1) AGRA ... | 3 | <p>Taken from the Police Administration Report for the North-Western Provinces for 1864, but which contains no account of these cases or of the Police action in them.</p> <p>In reference however to Ajmere, the District Superintendent of Police had reported: "During 1864, there were no cases of robbery by the administration of poisonous drugs." (1)</p> |
| | | (2) ETAH ... | 1 | |
| | | (3) MUTTRA... | 2 | |
| | | (4) AJMERE ... | 1 | |
| | | (5) ALLAHABAD | 2 | |
| | | (6) BANDA ... | 1 | |
| | | (7) CAWNPORE | 6 | |
| Crd. over } | 16 | 7 DISTRICTS ... | 16 | |

| GOVERNMENTS OR ADMINISTRATIONS. | NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH NO CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER AND NAMES OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER OF CASES. | REMARKS. |
|---------------------------------|--|---|------------------|--|
| | | | | |
| NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES. | 16 | 7 DISTRICTS | 16 | |
| | | (8) JOUNPORE | 1 | <p>This case terminated fatally. "On the 16th May, the Gorait of Sikrora, in the Buxsha Division, brought a body to the Station, accompanied by a young woman, Marreum, daughter of deceased, whose name was Zeemut-Huzzel. It appears that mother and daughter had been on a pilgrimage to Mecca and on their return they were joined at Bhopal Tal by a man named <i>Girdharee Kewat</i>, who mentioned he was a resident of Jounpoor, and was on his way there. They proceeded in company as far as Muchlee Shahur where they put up at a serai. During the night, Girdharee cooked food and asked the deceased to partake of it. He also gave the daughter something in a <i>chillum</i>, which made her giddy and sick; the mother, too, shortly after, became insensible, when Girdharee robbed her of Rs. 9-5-3 and decamped. Early next morning the daughter finding her mother still in a precarious state, got alarmed, and hired an <i>Ekka</i> for the purpose of taking her into Jounpoor. The <i>Ekka</i> driver, however, probably from fright, seeing the mother's state, did not take them the whole way but left them under a top of trees at Sikrora and drove off. The same evening the mother died. <i>Although every endeavour has been made to trace the culprit, he has not yet been heard of.</i> From enquiries instituted, it appears that Girdharee is unconnected with any similar undetected cases in the division (Benares.) He is, however, an absconded offender from the Jounpoor district, in a case of theft." (POLICE ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1864)</p> |
| | | (9) MOORADABAD | 3 | |
| | | (10) SHAJAHANPORE | 1 | |
| | | | | <p>No account of these cases in the Police Administration Report for 1864, nor of the police action in them.</p> |
| | | (11) BENARES | 5 | <p>(1) 18th August 1864.—"A Constable found two young <i>Chumarin</i> girls insensible in Bissasargunge in the city, and having removed them to his station, it was discovered, and also confessed to by the defendant, that they had <i>bhang</i> mixed in <i>goor</i> given to them by a <i>chumiar</i> had named <i>Bundhoowa</i>, in view to his having criminal connection with them, After they had become intoxicated, the young women, on reaching the Superintendent's house shortly after, had quite recovered their senses, and recognized the defendant as the person who had been in their company and gave them the <i>goor</i>, and the whole story was confirmed by three other lads who were with <i>Bundhoowa</i> when he purchased the <i>bhang</i> and administered it to the plaintiffs. The prisoner was duly forwarded for trial, under Section 328 of the Code, and committed to the Sessions, and sentenced to five years' imprisonment."</p> <p>(2) "As there is no robbery in this case, nor apparently any intention of such, perhaps it should not have found entry in this report; but as it has been shown in the Benares statements, I have also deemed it advisable to mention it, viz —</p> <p>12th November 1864:—"It appears that three travellers, Sheokurn, Khooseeram, and Sookram Dass, residents of the Meerut District, were travelling towards Juggurnath. At Allahabad they were joined by one Girwur, who made himself exceedingly agreeable on the journey. On arrival at Benares they put up at a <i>Dhurumshalah</i>, when Girwur went and purchased <i>poorees</i> and sweetmeats, and the whole party eat their meals together. In the evening, the said Girwur brought some <i>choora</i> and <i>goor</i>, of which Khooseeram and Sookram Dass partook, but Sheokurn declined. Soon after, the two former got stupefied, and about midnight Sookram Dass began to vomit; on this Sheokurn got frightened, and suspecting foul play on the part of Girwur, searched his brother Khooseeram to see whether his purse which contained Rs. 8 was safe; not finding it he at once suspected Girwur of the theft and complained to the Police. Rs. 11 were found on Girwur, but Khooseeram's purse was not forthcoming. On being questioned, he confessed to the theft, but denied having tampered with the evening meal. However, from the condition of the two men and the Medical Officer's report, there was no doubt that something deleterious had been mixed with the food. The case being strong against Girwur, he was arrested and forwarded for trial, committed to the Sessions, and sentenced to fourteen years' imprisonment."</p> <p>(3) 17th November 1864.—"An insensible traveller was found by the chowkeedar of village Shoojabad, lying close to a jowar field near the river bank, and was brought by him to the Rajghat out-post. The Sub-Inspector of Ramnugger happened to be there at the time, and, imagining the</p> |
| NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES. | 16 | 11 DISTRICTS | 26 | |
| | | | | |

| GOVERNMENTS OF ADMINISTRATIONS. | NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH NO CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER AND NAMES OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER OF CASES. | REMARKS. |
|---------------------------------|--|---|------------------|--|
| | | | | |
| Brt. } over | 16 | 11 DISTRICTS | 26 | <p>man had an epileptic fit, sprinkled his face with water, &c. After two or three hours the man came to his senses and told his tale—that he was travelling from the Upper Provinces, towards Gya, and on reaching Mohun Serai (about eight miles from Benares) was accosted by a man calling himself an Aheer, who said he was going to Patna where he had a brother; they walked on in company, crossing during the afternoon the bridge-of-boats at Rajghat, where they pulled up and seated themselves by the river bank. Ramasur (the plaintiff) then told his companion to get some <i>suttoo</i>, which he brought tied up in two bundles: one portion he gave to Ramasur, and eat the other himself. After taking a little, he detected a bitter taste in the <i>suttoo</i>, and threw the remainder away into the river, asking his friend what sort of <i>suttoo</i> he had brought; he replied that it was the best to be had. Shortly after, Ramasur became giddy; the Aheer then led him along the bank of the river for about half a mile when he became insensible. He had a <i>lota</i>, a <i>ruzzai</i>, and Rs. two in cash with him; these must have been taken from him by the Aheer, who had disappeared. The search after the defendant was unsuccessful at the time, but shortly after he was engaged in a similar crime and arrested—<i>Vide</i> case 5.</p> <p>(4) 5th December 1864:—"The fourth case occurred in the Dussasoomade Division of the city of Benares. About 5 p. m. two men, one calling himself Gokul, the other (name unknown), apparently his servant, visited a prostitute by name Chunder Monee. The former gave her a Rupee and proposed remaining the night. Two other women who lived close by happened to be there at the time, but went away soon after. Gokul then sent his servant for <i>poorees</i>, sweetmeats, and cream, and they all partook; soon after Chunder Monee became insensible, and remembered nothing till seven the following morning. When she awoke she found she had vomited all over the floor, and that the two men had disappeared. On looking about, she discovered a box of her's had been broken open, and the contents consisting of clothes and jewels valued at Rs. 114-8-0 stolen."</p> <p>"The first intimation to the Police was at 10 a. m. on the 6th, when the Sub-Inspector proceeded to the plaintiff's house, and having collected the substance vomited forwarded it to the Civil Surgeon. He then obtained a descriptive roll of the culprits, and after a few hours' search found Gokul in another prostitute's house. When brought before the plaintiff he was at once recognized by her, as also by the two women who were visiting her the previous evening, and was duly forwarded for trial; but the fact of his having given any drug not being properly established, he was released on that charge. However, on further enquiry on the part of the Magistrate, he was disposed of under Section 280 of Act XXV. of 1861. Although every endeavour was made to trace the second culprit, the efforts of the Police were unsuccessful, and he is still at large."</p> <p>(5) 5th December 1864:—"The fifth and last case in this district occurred near Rajah talao. The Sub-Inspector of the Mirza Moorad Station had been in that direction enquiring into a case, and returning about noon, saw a man lying down about a stone's throw from the tank. On being called, he raised his head for a moment. The Sub-Inspector then went close to him, when he informed him that his name was Hookmee Hujjam, and that he had come from Allahabad; that some three koss back he had met a man, calling himself an Aheer, who had given him some <i>suttoo</i> whilst seated at a tank; and that, on arrival at Rajah talao, feeling himself heated and dizzy, he had laid down, and that his companion had gone on a-head."</p> <p>"The Sub-Inspector, suspecting foul play, at once obtained a description of the supposed Aheer and started in pursuit. Immediately after, seeing a man going in the direction of Hookmee, and his appearance tallying with the descriptive roll, he arrested him, when the plaintiff at once recognized him as the person who had given him the <i>suttoo</i>. The defendant on being questioned was found to be a <i>Passce</i>; his name was Shewdeen. He confessed to having given Hookmee some bhang to drink mixed with a small quantity of opium, then the <i>suttoo</i>, and concluded by making him a ganja <i>chillum</i> mixed with two dhuttoora seeds, and that it was his intention to rob his victim when quite insensible. Hookmee was at once sent in to the Medical Officer, and sufficient evidence in support of the confession being forthcoming, Shewdeen was forwarded for trial."</p> <p>"When first seen by the Superintendent of Police, he was identified as the person who had escaped in the Ramnuggur case (No. 3 <i>supra</i>), and on him were discovered the articles stolen on that occasion. He acknowledged his guilt, and mentioned that he had been initiated into the system by the professional poisoner Bishoondyal, who was arrested, convicted, and hanged at Benares in 1863. Shewdeen was duly tried and convicted, and is now undergoing 10 years' imprisonment. The first case against the</p> |
| Crd. } over | 16 | 11 DISTRICTS | 26 | |

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES.

BENARES, —continued.

| GOVERNMENTS OR ADMINISTRATIONS. | NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH NO CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER AND NAMES OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER OF CASES. | REMARKS. |
|---------------------------------|--|---|------------------|---|
| | | | | |
| Br. } over } | 16 | 11 DISTRICTS ... BENARES,—continued. | 26 | <p>defendant was not gone into, owing to the absence of the plaintiff, and to there being no other direct evidence against him."</p> <p>MEMO :—This case was reported to this Office, and Shewdeen Passeo was found to be in the rolls of the Thuggee and Dacoity Department as a registered Thug poisoner. For Bishendyal's case, <i>who was a returned emigrant from the Mauritius</i>, vide General Superintendent's Annual Report for 1862, No. 794, dated 15th September 1862, Para. XX.</p> <p>(1) 10th May 1864 :—"A man was found lying insensible near a liquor-shop, a short distance from the Kuchwa bazar, by the Head Constable of that Station when out patrolling. The Police Officer learnt that the man had been there since 12 o'clock, and that he had shown signs of intoxication when he arrived, and had remained so up to the hour (6 p. m.) of the Head Constable's coming up. The Officer tried to move him, but failed, and, thinking his appearance different from that of a drunken man, forwarded him for medical examination, when it was ascertained to be a case of drugging. The man did not recover his senses sufficiently for twenty-four hours after his arrival at Mirzapore, when he stated that he was proceeding from Allahabad to Benares, and at Gopeegunj was joined by a man, who, after administering some drug (discovered to be <i>dhutoora</i>) in his food, decoyed him off the main road. Soon after they must have reached the above-mentioned liquor-shop, when the prisoner, finding his companion getting worse and worse, decamped, after relieving his victim of property valued at Rs. 5-8-0. From the time of the first discovery, the Kuchwa Police did their best in the case, but without any good result. The culprit, however, was subsequently arrested in another case (3) when the commission of this one was traced to him."</p> <p>(2) 16th May 1864 :—"A party of ten <i>beparees</i> came into the bazar with grain for sale; six of them were in one partnership, and four in another. They all put up at one Fukeer Hulwace's house, where they were always in the habit of lodging. Having disposed of their goods, the former party returned to their homes on the following morning, leaving the four others behind, three of whom had during the night become insensible, the fourth man, Ram Koomar by name, being all right. From the statement of the chowkeedar, who reported the case, it appears the said Ram Koomar had done his utmost to keep the other three from the public gaze and the Police the evening before, and apparently succeeded until the report was made. It was ascertained that the victims had sold their grain for Rs. 65-8, and the money made over to Ram Koomar, who wishing to appropriate the whole amount, mixed some <i>dhutoora</i> seed into the food of his partners, in view to make off when the drug had taken proper effect. The money had for some time been made over to one Oujoodhia, in whose house it was found tied up in a jacket belonging to the said Ram Koomar, who was duly committed to Sessions, convicted, and sentenced to five years' imprisonment."</p> <p>(3) 24th June 1864 :—"A little girl, Dilbahar, informed the Police that her mother (a prostitute) named Budma was lying insensible at her house, and that a man had been there at 8 a. m., who shortly after asked her (Dilbahar) to go out and purchase a little sugar; when brought, he made a shurbut, of which the mother partook. He then sent her again for <i>pan</i>. On her return, half an hour after, she found her mother insensible, and the man gone off with jewellery valued at Rs. 28-6. The report was made at 1 p. m., and at 4 p. m., from the description obtained from Dilbahar, the man was arrested at the Railway station, and on being brought to Budma's house was at once recognized by the girl and a neighbour. His name was Mungur, and on further enquiry he turned out to be the individual who drugged the man in case (1). He was committed to the Sessions, convicted, and sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment."</p> <p>(4) 31st October 1864 :—"A woman calling herself Kutree, went to the house of Bechoo Kulwar in Bhndoe and claimed relationship with the family through Debee Kulwar of Gopeegunj, and said she had come to talk about some marriage in the family, which she was anxious to prevent. She then proposed having some food with Bechoo and his family consisting of his wife and two or three other persons. The chupatees were ready cooked, and preparations were made for cooking some vegetables, when one of Bechoo's children, about eleven years old, began to grind spices to flavor them. The stranger talked about family matters, and presently suggested to the little girl that she should help her to grind the spices; shortly after, the little girl and her mother went out for natural purposes. When the food was ready, Bechoo and his father partook, but another daughter who joined them in the meal, <i>thinking it tasted nasty</i>, spat it</p> |
| Crd. } over } | 16 | 12 DISTRICTS ... | 30 | |

| GOVERNMENTS OR ADMINIS- TRATIONS. | NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH NO CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER AND NAMES OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER OF CASES. | REMARKS. |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|------------------|--|
| | | | | |
| NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES. | 16 | 12 DISTRICTS ... | 30 | <p>out. When the meal was over, Bechoo and his father became insensible. Bechoo's wife returned, and finding them in this state, tried to bring them round; and in the confusion the stranger decamped with her ornaments valued at Rs. 17. From the way in which she went to work, there is every reason to suppose that Kutree must be a professional poisoner. A woman answering to the description was subsequently arrested at Gopeegunj, but the plaintiff failed to recognize her as the culprit, and no report having been made to this Office of her capture, I conclude Mussamut Kutree must be still at large."</p> <p>MEMO:—Cases of this kind have taken place in other parts of the country, and were fully reported upon in the General Superintendent's Annual Report in the Foreign Department for 1862. For a remarkable instance, <i>vide</i> para. XXI. of Col. Hervey's Report, No. 794, dated 15th September 1863.</p> |
| | | MIRZAPORE,— <i>continued</i> . | | |
| | | (13) GORUCKPORE ... | 2 | <p>The Police Administration Report contains no separate account of these cases nor of the police action in them.</p> |
| | | (14) ALLYGHUR ... | 4 | <p>One case 31st January 1864:—"This case is one of the usual stamp. Bida Ram, Constable, while proceeding on duty from Chundose to Cool, observed a <i>bhylee</i> passing him, and being struck with the appearance of the driver (Dhokul), who looked intoxicated, he stopped him; a man, a woman and a girl were walking alongside. Dhokul was too ill to speak, but he made signs that the people with him had given him something to eat, upon this he took all three into custody, but being alone the man ran away. Some arsenic and <i>poorees</i> were found in the <i>bhylee</i>. On recovering, the <i>bhylee</i> driver gave evidence against the man and woman. The man was subsequently arrested and sentenced to ten years' and the woman to seven years' imprisonment."</p> <p>MEMO:—The habit of a class of professional poisoners, of selecting <i>hackery</i> and <i>bhylee drivers</i> for their victims, was described in the General Superintendent's Report to the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 794, dated 15th September 1863, paras. XIX and XXIV.</p> <p>The Police Administration Report for 1864 gives no account of the other three cases, or of any police action in them.</p> |
| | | (15) BOOLUND SHAHUR ... | 3 | <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE:—"During the year, the District Superintendent of Police (from information received) discovered and prosecuted to conviction a poisoner named Kullooah who had committed two robberies by administration of <i>dhutoorah</i> in 1863. This man was a professional robber by poison, and his discovery, capture and conviction, are matters of congratulation."</p> <p>MEMO:—This man Kulloo Kachee was in connection with one Mohun and other poisoners, implicated in several cases of Thuggee by means of poisons investigated by the Thuggee and Dacoity Department <i>before</i> its withdrawal from British Territory by the Resolution of 1863. He had poisoned a man in Budaon in July 1861, and a reward of Rs. 50 was offered for his arrest.</p> <p>No account of the 3 cases here returned for 1864, or of the action taken in them, was given in the Police Administration Report for 1864; but the following is the account of <i>one</i> of them as reported to the Thuggee and Dacoity Department, <i>viz</i> :—</p> <p>20th September 1864:—"Goolzar Pathan had sold a horse and pony at Allyghur for Rs. 135, which he had with him. He put up one night at the serai at Soomna, and the next night at Khoorjah. A man from near the Railway station at Allyghur had accompanied him. He came with the complainant as far as Cholah, where the latter fell asleep, and this man went off with his money, &c. It appears that near Cholah, the thief had procured him some <i>poorees</i>, which he ate and proceeded on his way. When he got some little distance, he fell down and became insensible. When he recovered a little, he went to Secundrabad to report the theft. A Sub-Inspector had not proceeded with him very far, when he again began to feel the effects of the <i>dhutoora</i>, but he recovered shortly afterwards. He stated that the man had given his name as Buldeo, son of Nutho Jat, resident of Hatrass in the Allyghur District. From the complainant's account of the man, it would seem that he belonged to a gang of poisoners located at Hatrass where one of them had been previously seized for some similar cases of poisoning."</p> |
| Crd. } over } | 16 | 15 DISTRICTS ... | 39 | |

| GOVERNMENTS OF ADMINISTRATION. | NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH NO CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER AND NAMES OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH CASES WERE REPORTED | NUMBER OF CASES. | REMARKS. |
|--------------------------------|--|--|------------------|--|
| | | | | |
| Brt. } over } | 16 | 15 DISTRICTS ... | 39 | <p>No details of these cases, or of any police action in them, are given in the Police Administration Report for 1864; but from a statement received in this Office, it would seem that one of the number took place on the 17th March 1864, and that one person died from the effects of the drug administered, but no other details were communicated.</p> <p>(1) 17th May 1864:—Kulloo, a sweeper, was travelling to Umballa accompanied by his wife and two children and by his brother Saffee, to visit some relations who were sweepers attached to the Horse Artillery at that station. He deposed: We reached a village in Meerut and not far from Sirdhamah, we met a man who partook of food with us. We came along to Boorbanah, eat some <i>chubeena</i> and started to Kurhur. We eat separately and came on to a place two <i>koss</i> from Shamlee where there was no habitation. He there fed us with some <i>mulleeda</i> (a cake of <i>goor</i>, flour and water.) Half an hour afterwards, I became quite insensible; my tongue became dry, and I could not speak; my head and body pained dreadfully. I was insensible one whole night and a day. I was purged and vomited, otherwise I should not have escaped. My brother died owing to the drug being administered to him in a large quantity. While insensible I was robbed of a silver chain 6 Rupees, necklace 1 Rupees, cloth and utensils (value not known.) and Rs. 2-8-0 in cash. I can recognize him if apprehended. He was of small stature, small beard, of middling complexion, aged about 40 years. He is a Mahomedan. The poisoner was with our party for two days. He did not accompany us from Meerut; we fell in with him on the Mozuffernuggur side of Sirdhamah."</p> <p>• Memo:—The Police Administration Report contains no account of the above case. An unpartaken portion of the <i>mulleeda</i> was sent to Dr. Macnamara, the Chemical Examiner to Government, who reported, <i>viz</i>:—</p> <p>"As the physiological test only can be relied on for such poisons as <i>dhutoora</i>, I made an extract of a portion (about 2 ounces) of the bread, and gave a part of the extract to a cat. The pupils of the animal became in a very short time widely dilated, and continued so for several hours. No other symptoms showed themselves. I dropped some of the liquid extract into one eye of each of two other cats. The pupils of the eyes so treated became markedly dilated. From these experiments I have no doubt the bread contained <i>dhutoora</i> or some other poison."</p> <p>(2) 12th July 1864:—"Sireea went to Nuthum Jat's house, and told him he could recover his bullock which had been stolen; so Nuthum taking Rs. 11 started off with defendant. He did not return home, and his father and relatives being alarmed at his absence, commenced enquiries, and reported at Barote Police Station that his son had gone away with Sireea, and he feared he (Sireea) had murdered him. The Police commenced enquiry, and ascertained that Jaga Ram, Nuthum's uncle, had gone to the Kurmaul District to look for Sireea, whom he had recognized when going with his nephew Nuthum, and that Sireea was arrested and made over to the Police by the zemindars of Sireea's village in the Kurmaul District on 25th July, charged with suspicion of having murdered Nuthum. At this time it was not known that Nuthum had been drugged, only that he was missing. Now comes the curious part: It so happened that, on the 10th July, a requisition came from the Superintendent of Police, Saharnpore, to search for a lunatic in this district (Mozuffernuggur), and on the 13th July, a man lying on a charpoy (who afterwards turned out to be Nuthum), and very like a lunatic, was taken to the Kyranah Police Station. The Sub-Inspector thought the man was the lunatic in question, and forwarded him to the Sudder Station. On arrival here he was forwarded on, by order of the Magistrate, to Saharnpore. On arrival at Saharnpore he turned out <i>not</i> to be the man that was required, and was accordingly sent back to this station, when he was released by the Magistrate and he returned to his village. On the 30th July Nuthum went to Barote, and recognized Sireea as the man who had drugged him near Kyranah. The case was transferred from the Meerut district to this. The Magistrate of the district has tried the case, and the crime has been clearly proved against 'Sireea.'"</p> <p>• Memo:—This culprit had committed another case of poisoning by exactly the same device in the previous December, 1863. He was tried upon both charges and sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment.</p> <p>There is no account of the third case.</p> |
| Crd. } over } | 16 | 17 DISTRICTS ... | 46 | |

| GOVERNMENTS OR ADMINISTRATIONS. | NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH NO CASES WERE REPORTED | NUMBER AND NAMES OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER OF CASES. | REMARKS. |
|---------------------------------|---|---|------------------|--|
| Brt. over } | 16 | 17 DISTRICTS ... | 46 | |
| | | (18) SAHARUNPORE ... | 1 | { No account of this case in the Police Administration Report, or of any Police action in it. |
| TOTAL | 16 | IN 18 DISTRICTS ... | 47 | <p>{ In the Police Administration Report for 1865, it was stated that the cases in 1864 numbered 35 only, while in Appendix II. of the same Report, the number was 47.</p> <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL, OF POLICE:—"No case of Thuggee (by strangulation) has occurred within the year, and only <i>two</i> cases of old occurrence remain undetected."</p> <p>"There has been a sensible decrease in the offence of <i>robbery by administration of poison</i>. The conviction of Hurpershad and his gang in 1863 will probably have contributed a good deal to this, and the seizure and conviction of other professionals during 1864, will, I hope, together with measures now in progress at Allyghur, further reduce the number of these offences. During the year, 47 cases occurred: 40 cases were detected, leading to the conviction of 32 persons."</p> <p>MEMO:—The number of persons arrested and other details, are not shown in the Police Administration Report. Hurpershad and his gang were brought to justice by Major Chamberlain, Assistant General Superintendent at Lucknow, for an account of whose proceedings in that remarkable case, <i>vide</i> the General Superintendent's Report to the Government of India, No. 794, dated 15th September 1863, Paras. XIX and XXIV.</p> <p>DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE (Major Tyrrewhitt):—"Professional poisoning by <i>dhutoora</i>, &c.—"This atrocious crime, rendered so facile by the ease with which the vegetable poison is procured, and the difficulty of detection, owing to the victim being for so many hours in a state of <i>coma</i> before he can give information, is, I am glad to say, not much on the increase."</p> <p>"The course pursued by the professional <i>dhutoora</i> poisoner, in entrapping and drugging his victim, is so well known to the Police Officers of the North-Western Provinces, that it would be a work of supererogation for me to enter into it in this Report. To those who have lately joined the Police, I recommend the Report of Major Chamberlain, Assistant General Superintendent, for 1862. Suffice it to say, that the usual victims are travellers and men of the Native Army proceeding on leave, and that a large number of <i>bhylees</i> and cattle are stolen by the use of this drug, as evidenced in the case of Deesa of the Etah District and Sireea of Kurnaul, arrested in the Mozuffernuggur District. I have much reason to believe that this crime was in full swing in the Allyghur and Etah Districts during the cholera epidemic of 1861, and that numbers of persons poisoned and found dead were entered in the Police diaries, as having died from cholera or starvation. The drug is administered in various ways, but the <i>chillam</i> and sweetmeats are the favorite forms of professional poisoners. 23 cases remained undetected in the Meerut and Rohileund Divisions from January 1861 to 1st January 1864; of these, 2 cases of 1863 were detected in 1864, <i>viz.</i>, 1 at Mozuffernuggur, and 1 at Boolundshuhur. During 1864, thirteen cases occurred (in those two Divisions), eight of which were detected during the year. In August, I examined at Agra, two life prisoners, Mohun and another. Mohun gave valuable information in the case of Kulloo, who was the perpetrator of the poisoning case at Bhoor in the Boolundshuhur district, and he is now at Allyghur working fairly under Mr. Williams, District Superintendent of Police."</p> <p>MEMO:—The cases in this Division (Meerut and Rohileund,) amounted to 19, it would seem, and not to 13 only. Mohun confessed to Major Chamberlain, to as many as 17 cases of poisoning in Etah, Agra, Muttra, Budson, and Allyghur. He was sentenced for life in a case of poisoning in the Muttra District on the 22nd July 1861.</p> <p>DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL (Major Davis):—"Robbery by administration of poison, whilst it numbered 22 cases in 1863 (in the Agra and Allahabad Division,) is reduced to 13 in 1864. Few of these present any serious features, such as would lead one to think them, as a rule, the work of organized and wide spread gangs. They are mostly cases of one man taking advantage of simple villagers, casually met, to stupefy and then rob them of what little they possessed. The exception to this case, is the gang of poisoners convicted in the Banda District, (<i>i.e.</i> Hurpershad's Gang)."</p> |

| GOVERNMENTS OR ADMINISTRATIONS. | NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH NO CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER AND NAMES OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER OF CASES. | REMARKS. |
|---------------------------------|--|--|------------------|--|
| TOTAL | 16 | IN 18 DISTRICTS,— <i>contd.</i> | 47* | <p>"The amount stolen in this way in 1864 is Rs. 246-2-0 in the 13 cases. Out of 65 persons concerned in them, 30 were brought to trial. Of these 21 may be said to be convicted, against 9 acquitted—an average which seems fair when the nature of the crime is considered, and that in most cases, all the party acted upon are victims to the stupefaction caused by <i>dhutoorah</i>, and which prevents their giving much or any information to identify the poisoner."</p> <p>MEMO:—The cases in this Division amounted, it would seem, to 15 and not 13 only.</p> <p>DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL (<i>Major Manning</i>):—"Robberies by the administration of poison or other deleterious drugs. Of these, 10 cases occurred in this Division (Benares,) viz: 5 in the Benares District, 4 in Mirzapore, and 1 in Jounpore."</p> <p>MEMO:—It would seem that the cases in this Division were 12 and not 10 only.</p> <p>DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL (<i>Major Dennehy</i>):—"This Division (Jhansie) has been altogether free from dacoiter, <i>thuggee</i>, or robberies by the administration of poisonous drugs during the year 1864."</p> <p>"I have at present on my file 3 cases of administration of poisonous drugs, 1 of <i>thuggee</i> and 2 of dacoitee. They are all of 1861 and 1862, but the perpetrators of the two former crimes are birds of passage in this Division, Humnecpoor being the district which they favor most. They leave but little clue, and that little I have found it difficult, after such a long interval, to take up."</p> <p>GOVERNMENT NORTH WESTERN PROVINCES:—"It is satisfactory that no case of <i>thuggee</i> has occurred within the year, and that only two cases of old occurrence remain undetected."</p> <p>"There has been a sensible decrease in the offence of robbery by administration of poison, which is satisfactory."</p> <p>(<i>End of North-Western Provinces for 1864</i>)</p> |
| | | <p>MEMO •</p> <p>Meerut and Rohilkund . . . 10 cases.</p> <p>Agra and Allahabad . . . 15 "</p> <p>Benares . . . 12 "</p> <p>Jhansie . . . nil.</p> <p>Ajmere . . . 1 "</p> <p>TOTAL 47 cases</p> | | |
| OUDH. | 8 | (1) OONAO ... | 3 | <p>POLICE ADMINISTRATION REPORT:—"There were 5 cases of robbery three of which were effected by administering poisonous drugs. In only one of the drugging cases was an apprehension made, and that resulted in acquittal."</p> <p>(1) "A man named Jheryuk, caste Dhobee, was proceeding along the road in the Moron jurisdiction, when a man came up to him, and after talking, they proceeded together. Towards evening the stranger offered some <i>sattoo</i>, which the Dhobee ate, and shortly afterwards became insensible. The officer in charge of the Police Station was on the spot as soon as possible, and every endeavour was made to trace the poisoner, but to no purpose. Descriptive Rolls were sent to the neighbouring district, and every effort made through the Police and Chowkeedars, but without avail. The small property of the Dhobee had of course been stolen."</p> <p>(2) "The second case occurred in October near the village of Passakheyra in the Poorwa jurisdiction. A man, Ram Buksh, was going along, when a stranger entered into conversation with him, and they proceeded together. At evening the stranger offered the Brahmin some <i>sattoo</i> which he greedily ate and became insensible; his small property was taken off. The Inspector and the Officer in charge of the Police Station were for a long time employed in searching all the villages round, in endeavoring to get the plaintiff to identify the culprit. This however was without success. The drugged man having said that the man who drugged him had stated he was a resident of Cawnpore, an intelligent Officer was despatched there with the plaintiff, and they remained several days watching the bazars, but to no purpose. There is very considerable doubt if the victim could recognize his druggist as will be seen by the next case."</p> <p>(3) "The third case occurred between the villages of Shewpore and Murrow in the Achulgumj jurisdiction. One case is the counterpart of the other. A man Shewdeen was going along towards Cawnpore, when he was overtaken by a man, calling himself an Aheer; they proceeded together. At nightfall, the stranger offered some <i>sattoo</i> which was eaten. Shortly afterwards, the victim became insensible, and his small belongings were stolen. The most strenuous efforts were made. The Inspector and Chief Constable went to almost every village on the route the man had taken through portions of the Roy Barilly and Sultanpore Districts. The District Superintendent endeavoured through the Chowkeedars to find the man."</p> |
| Crd. } over } | 8 | 1 DISTRICT | 3 | |

| GOVERNMENTS OR ADMINISTRATIONS. | NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH NO CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER AND NAMES OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER OF CASES. | REMARKS. |
|---------------------------------|--|---|------------------|--|
| Br. over } | 8 | 1 DISTRICT ... | 3 | The inspector patrolled the road with the drugged man, and went to watch the ghat at the Ganges. The victim pointed out a man who he said was the man who gave him the suttou. He said he recognized his kummul and a little bag. On examination this broke down entirely. His witnesses could not identify the articles, and the man apprehended established an 'alibi' most clearly. |
| OUDH. | | OONAO,— <i>contd.</i> | | |
| | (2) HURDUI ... | ... | 1 | POLICE ADMINISTRATION REPORT:—All the 13 murders, <i>including one by poison</i> , are, however, ordinary for the sake of revenge, &c. The Police apprehended in every case, but one. MEMO:—This leaves it doubtful whether the poisoning case was among the detected cases or not.) |
| | (3) FYZABAD ... | ... | 3 | These cases were entered in a "Statement showing cases of Thuggee in the District of Fyzabad" received from the Deputy Commissioner under date 19th March 1866, as of occurrence (1) at Itajepore on the 1st July 1864, persons implicated 25 arrested 8: (2) at Kuniapore on the 13th August 1864, persons implicated 16, arrested 9: (3) at Serai Raneepore on the 17th August 1864, persons implicated 20, arrested 1: total implicated 61, arrested 18: but no other details were given, and it seems probable that the occurrence of these cases only became known <i>after the date of the Police Administration Report for 1864.</i> |
| | (4) PERTABGHUR ... | ... | 1 | POLICE ADMINISTRATION REPORT:—“Nine murders, <i>of which one was by poison</i> .” * * * The murder by poison was an ordinary murder for revenge. |
| | | | | INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE:—“No perceptible effect on the crimes of the provinces has been produced by the abolition of the Thuggee Department.” “There have been no cases of Thuggee.” “Robbery by administering intoxicating drugs:—During the year, only 4 crimes of this nature were reported and none ended fatally; three cases were reported in the Oonao District and one in Fyzabad.” “The case (in Fyzabad) occurred at a bathing place on the road to Sultanpore among travellers returning from bathing at Ajnoohya; it was for robbery, but the poisoners were disturbed before they could complete the offence. It will be observed that the Fyzabad case was an unsuccessful attempt.” MEMO:—No separate mention of this case was given in the Police Administration Report under the Fyzabad District unless it was alluded to in the following sentence, viz:—in one case of “attempt at murder,” it was decided that the crime was not committed.” It will be perceived from the date and place of this case, that it is not one of the three above entered against Fyzabad. Thus by rejecting this attempted case and the 2 revenge cases for Hurdai and Pertabghur, there remain 3 cases, only for all Oudh according to the <i>Police Administration Report for 1864</i> , and those too, of occurrence only in Oonao! |
| TOTAL | 8 | 4 DISTRICTS ... | 8 | POLICE ADMINISTRATION REPORT, TABLES A AND B:—“Murders by poison. Three cases against 5 in 1863: arrested 6 persons, acquitted 1: convicted 2: died, transferred or escaped 1: under trial at the close of the year 2 persons in 1 case.” MEMO:—Whether these are the three cases for Oonao or not is not plain—the latter having been described above <i>not to have ended fatally</i> , whereas these are otherwise described. But it is possible that these 3 cases comprise two with murder in Hurdai and Pertabghur, and another “revenge case” by means of poison in some other not mentioned district and <i>not the Oonao cases</i> , the following remark appearing in para. 158 of the Police Administration Report for 1864, viz: “The remaining cases (of murder) were 101 in number, and, including the 3 by poison, were ordinary murders committed from jealousy, revenge or quarrels, &c.” Without reference to classification, the number of reported cases of poisoning in Oudh in 1864, whether stated in the Police Administration Report or otherwise gathered as in the cases for Fyzabad, and the details to be collected regarding them, would seem to be summarized as follows:— RECAPITULATION:—Total cases 10 (including an attempt in Fyzabad, and a case attended with murder in some unmentioned district) against 6 in 1863: Concerned 61 persons in 3 cases in Fyzabad as reported by the Deputy Commissioner: Number concerned not stated in 7 cases: Arrested 25 persons in 7 cases: No one arrested in 3 cases: 1 man released in one case (in Oonao): 2 persons convicted, 1 acquitted, 1 otherwise disposed of |

| GOVERNMENTS OR ADMINIS- TRATIONS. | NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH NO CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER AND NAMES OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER OF CASES. | REMARKS. |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| TOTAL | 8 | 4 DISTRICTS,— <i>continued</i> . | 8 | <p>in 2 cases (of revenge) 20 persons pending in 4 cases (viz: 3 in Fyzabad and 1 a revenge case;) Property robbed not shown: Murder in 3 cases: No murder in 7 cases.</p> <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE:—"The Province, I am thankful to has been comparatively free from this horrible crime during the year under review."</p> <p>CHIEF COMMISSIONER:—"In murder by poison there has been a decrease, and the Chief Commissioner understands that none of these crimes were for purposes of robbery."</p> <p>"The effect of the abolition of the Thuggee Department continues to be imperceptible as the Chief Commissioner expected."</p> <p>"Three of the 4 cases of robbery by administering intoxicating drugs occurred in Oomao. The reason probably is that three-fourths of the travellers who leave and enter Oudh cross the Ganges at Cawnpore."</p> <p>(<i>End of Oudh.</i>)</p> |
| PUNJAB. | 12 | <p>(1) UMBALLAH ...</p> <p>(2) LOODIANAH ...</p> <p>(3) DELHI ...</p> <p>(4) GOORGAON ...</p> <p>(5) HISSAR ...</p> <p>(6) ROHTUCK ...</p> <p>(7) LAHORE...</p> | <p>2</p> <p>1</p> <p>5</p> <p>4</p> <p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>2</p> | <p>No details given.</p> <p>{ Three persons convicted. Memo:—According to Appendix III of the Police Administration Report for 1864, the cases in Loodianah were <i>two</i>. No other details were given.</p> <p>{ Fourteen persons convicted. Memo:—According to Appendix III of the Police Administration Report for 1864, the cases in Delhi numbered <i>ten</i>. No other details given.)</p> <p>{ One only of these cases (11th August 1864) was reported to this Office. Two travellers arrived at the serai at Sonah for the night. At 10 p. m. it was discovered that one lay stretched upon a cot quite dead, and that the other had gone off. The deceased had been poisoned and robbed of all his property. The culprit was not discovered. He had given his name as Cheytrun. No account of the remaining cases was communicated.</p> <p>In addition to these cases, a report was received, in the Thuggee and Dacoity Department, of a dead body of a female having been found at a well near Delhi (15th December 1864) with the hands fastened and a rope round the neck. The enquiry into this case resulted in its being ascertained (it was stated,) that this was not a case of thuggee or poisoning, but that the woman had been murdered by her son-in-law.</p> <p>No account or details of this case in the Police Administration Report.</p> <p>{ The Police Administration Report gives no account of these cases. One only of them was reported to this Office, viz:—</p> <p>"At 10 p. m. of the 5th December 1864, a cart driver name Hidayut Oollah ran into the village of Kukrana with foam issuing from his mouth, and unable to give any utterance. He recovered his senses after 3 days, and stated that he had come from Delhi with his cart to the serai at Rohtuck where three persons engaged him for a sum of three rupees and a half, to take them to Nawur; that they were employes in the Canal Department at Kurnaul and were on leave; that when come a little beyond Kukrana, they gave him some <i>mulleeda</i> which had been drugged, which he ate; that a mile or two further on he became insensible, and in that condition wandered back to Kukrana; the strangers had taken away his cart and bullocks. No traces of the culprits or of the cart and bullocks were discovered."</p> <p>MEMO:—This was a repetition of the hackery cases practised by Hursperhad's Gang—<i>vide</i> remarks on the subject in the present Statement under the North-Western Provinces.)</p> <p>{ No account of these cases in the Police Administration Report; but one case according to a report of it to the Thuggee and Dacoity Department, took place as follows (date not stated.) "This case, although not attended with the death of the victims, was no doubt perpetrated by</p> |
| Crd. over } | 12 | 7 DISTRICTS ... | 17 | |

| GOVERNMENTS OR ADMINISTRATIONS. | NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH NO CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER AND NAMES OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER OF CASES. | REMARKS. |
|---------------------------------|--|---|------------------|---|
| | | | | |
| PUNJAB. Brt. } over } | 12 | 7 DISTRICTS ... | 17 | <p><i>professional thug poisoners; both of the parties arrested for it (a man and a woman) having been suspected as accomplices in previous cases of robbery with drugging. On the present occasion they had established themselves in a village, and after a residence of some weeks had entirely gained the confidence of the inhabitants. After some weeks, the man persuaded some of the village people to accompany him for the purpose of buying cattle in the Malwa districts. On the road he persuaded them to appoint 2 men as mooktyars and consign to their care all the money requisite for the purpose. These two persons he contrived to separate, and then drugged one of them, carrying off all the money in his charge as well as his horse. The woman in the meantime decamped from the village with a large quantity of ornaments which she had borrowed on the plea of attending a marriage. Both were subsequently apprehended by the Lahore Police and the greater portion of the property was recovered. Both were sentenced to 7 years' transportation.</i></p> <p>MEMO:—The conviction of these 2 persons was not, it seems, included in the Police Administration Report.</p> <p>Two persons convicted. The Police Administration Report gives no further account of these cases.</p> <p>POLICE ADMINISTRATION REPORT—<i>Umritsur City</i>:—The increase in murders is remarkable. Of these cases, two were unfortunate prostitutes strangled for the sake of their ornaments. Major McAndrew (some time Assistant General Superintendent) points out that this is a kind of "Thuggey," though not what would be ordinarily understood by that name. The offender perpetrates the offence generally unaided, and hence the difficulty of discovery. Similar cases have occurred in Lahore and Jullundur in past years, and in none have the Police been successful. "During the past five years" Major McAndrew states "but one case has ever been detected, and in that the offender was a Pathan Sepoy marching with a detachment; he confessed to several other similar murders."</p> <p>MEMO:—Some other cases of this kind, strangling prostitutes, occurred in the City of Agra and were similarly ascribed to thugs.</p> |
| | | (8) UMRTSUR ... | 4 | <p>Two persons convicted. According to Appendix III of the Police Administration Report there were two cases in Jullundhur, convicted 2 persons. No account of them was given.</p> <p>The Police Administration Report gave no account of this case, and the following report of it was obtained from a Statement of cases of Thuggee for 1864 received from the Commissioner of the Division:—"A man calling himself Goolam Nubbee (Sheik.) resident of Chutbunoor of Puttiala, administered <i>dhutoora</i> to two old persons (a man and his wife,) <i>Joolahas</i> or Weavers, of the village of Dook in the Budaur. Ilacqua of the Khangra District (21st December 1864.) While these two persons were insensible, Goolam Nubbee stripped them of their jewels and made off. Meantime the old man and his wife quite recovered. The offender has been traced to Ropur in the Umballah District, and it is hoped will soon be arrested."</p> <p>MEMO:—The above case was subsequently detailed in full in the Police Administration Report for 1866. The old couple were taken ill immediately after partaking of some <i>goor</i> which was given to them as <i>Neaz</i> or consecrated offering by the man Goolam Nubbee, who, in the garb of a Fucqueer, had been their guest for a fortnight. Some was also given to their daughter, but who spat it out by <i>on finding it bitter</i>. The village headmen at once administered the antidote of milk, which acted as an emetic and revived the old people. The culprit was very persistently tracked from place to place, and was eventually arrested in the Umballa Bazar and was there recognized as the man who had committed some other recent poisoning cases in the Umballa District. By some misapprehension he was tried for one of those offences only, and in accordance with the sentence passed (7 years) he had even been actually transported to the Andamans when the mistake of not trying him for the Khangra case was discovered. Whereupon he was recalled and placed on his trial for that offence also, on conviction whereof, he was sentenced to 7 years' additional transportation. His proper name was <i>Rahman</i>.</p> |
| | | (9) GOORDASPORE ... | 1 | No account of this case was given. |
| | | (10) JULLUNDHUR ... | 1 | |
| | | (11) KANGRA ... | 1 | |
| Crd. } over } | 12 | 11 DISTRICTS ... | 24 | |

| GOVERNMENTS OR ADMINIS- TRATIONS. | NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH NO CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER AND NAMES OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH CASES WERE REPORTED. | | NUMBER OF CASES. | REMARKS. |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------|------------------|---|
| | | | | | |
| PUNJAB. | Brt. over } | 12 | 11 DISTRICTS ... | 34 | |
| | | | (12) RAWUL PINDEE ... | 1 | The Police Administration Report contained no account of this affair. |
| | | | (13) JHELUM ... | 1 | { Two persons convicted. No account of this case is given in the Police Report for 1864. |
| | | | (14) SHAHPORE ... | 1 | One person convicted. No account given. |
| | | | (15) GOOJRAT ... | 1 | The Police Report gave no account of this case. |
| | | | | | { One man convicted. These cases are not included in the Police Administration Report for 1864. They were committed by a Thug Approver of the old Thuggee and Dacoity Department, named <i>Sobha</i> , who escaped from the custody of the Lahore Police in May 1864, and was recaptured near the City of Sealkote in the following August. On one occasion, he gave the poison of " <i>dhutoora stramonium</i> " to a man and a boy, on the 5th July, at Chukgilham, a village in the Sealkote District. The poison was given in a dish of rice, mixed with coarse sugar. The boy died from the effects of the poison. The Civil Surgeon on a <i>post mortem</i> examination found <i>dhutoora</i> seed in the stomach of the deceased, mixed with rice. <i>Sobha</i> was hanged. He declared that between the time of his escape and capture, he had, joined by several associates, committed as many as 18 cases of poisoning by <i>dhutoora</i> , many of which had terminated fatally. |
| | | | (16) SEALKOTE ... | 3 | { MEMO:—The seed found in the stomach was according to the medical officer "only a portion of it, much being partially digested, and life must have been destroyed with that quantity in the stomach. The stomach in contact with the seed was irritated. There was moreover, no appearance of disease or any other cause for death, and having ascertained the symptoms previous to death ensuing, I could come to no other conclusion." |
| | | | | | POLICE ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1865.—"There were three Thuggee cases in 1864, in the Sealkote district, committed by one <i>Sobha</i> , a Thug Approver, who escaped from the Central Jail and who was soon after taken and hanged." |
| | | | | | MEMO.—As there is no doubt of these cases "of Murder by Thugs," three is the number returned in the present Statement for Sealkote, and the above is the account of one of them, no account of the other two having reached this Office. In the Police Administration Report for 1864, however, only <i>one</i> was given. |
| | | | (17) MOOLTAN ... | 1 | { This case, although included in Appendix I of Police Administration Report for 1864, was excluded from Appendix III: no account of it was given. |
| TOTAL | 12 | | (18) PESHAWUR ... | 2 | { One person convicted: but according to Appendix III of Police Administration Report, there was only <i>one</i> case. No account of it was given. |
| | | | (19) HUZARA ... | 1 | { This case was omitted from Appendix III of the Police Report. No account of it was given in the body of the Report. |
| | | | (20) BUNNOO ... | 1 | { This case was also omitted from the list of cases given in Appendix III of the Police Administration Report for 1864. |
| | | | 20 DISTRICTS ... | 36 | { According to Table A and Appendix I of the Police Administration Report, the total number of cases was 33, but according to Appendix III they were 34. The number returned in the present Statement conforms with Appendix I, with the addition, however, of three cases in Sealkote which were not included in the series given in the Police Administration Report for 1864, and have been added, as will have been seen, from the mention made of them in the Police Administration Report for 1865. Table A:—Thirty-three cases against 34 in 1863, "The greatest number of these cases occurred in the following districts, Umritsur 4, Goorgaon 4, Delhi 5." |

| GOVERNMENTS OR ADMINISTRATIONS. | NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH NO CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER AND NAMES OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER OF CASES. | REMARKS. | | |
|---------------------------------|--|---|------------------|---|---------------|--------------------|
| | | | | APPENDIX I. | APPENDIX III. | |
| | | | | | Cases. | Persons convicted. |
| PUNJAB. | | | | Umballah | 2 | 0 |
| | | | | Loodianah | 1 | 3 |
| | | | | Delhi | 5 | 14 |
| | | | | Goorgaon | 4 | 0 |
| | | | | Hissar | 1 | 0 |
| | | | | Rohtuck | 2 | 0 |
| | | | | Lahore | 2 | 0 |
| | | | | Umritsur | 4 | 2 |
| | | | | Goordaspore | 1 | 0 |
| | | | | Jullunder | 1 | 2 |
| | | | | Kangra | 1 | 0 |
| | | | | Rawul Pindee | 1 | 0 |
| | | | | Jhelum | 1 | 2 |
| | | | | Shahpore | 1 | 1 |
| | | | | Goojrat | 1 | 0 |
| | | | | Sealkote | nil. | nil. |
| | | | | Mooltan | 1 | nil. |
| | | | | Peshawur | 2 | 1 |
| | | | | Huzzara | 1 | nil. |
| | | | | Bunnoo | 1 | nil. |
| | | | | TOTAL | 33 | 25 |
| | | | | POLICE ADMINISTRATION REPORT:—Appendix IV:—24 persons in Jail on the 31st December 1864, and 46 under Police surveillance for administering poisonous drugs. | | |
| | | | | The following is gathered from Appendix III of the Police Administration Report for 1864, viz:—65 cases of murder by thugs: convicted 125 persons. "Of these 3 were murders by a thug." | | |
| | | | | MEMO:—Perhaps 2 of these murder cases are identical with those of the strangled prostitutes as entered in the remarks against Umritsur, and the third, the case under Sealkote, by the Thug Approver Sobha, which, although effected by means of poison, had not, it was then observed, been included in the series of the poisoning cases detailed as above in the Police Administration Report. | | |
| | | | | In respect to the above cases of murder "by thugs," the Lieutenant Governor observed to the Inspector General Police: "You intimated that whereas 29 cases of thuggee were entered in the Returns for 1863, as having occurred in that year, you had subsequently ascertained that in reality but one case had occurred, and there can be no doubt whatever, that the entry of 65 cases under the same heading for 1864 is yet more erroneous. | | |
| | | | | RECAPITULATION:—Total of poisoning cases 36: Concerned 8 persons in 7 cases: Number concerned not shown in 29 cases: Number of persons arrested or released not stated: Convicted 28 persons in 25 cases including 1 man, Sobha, hanged: Number convicted or otherwise not shown in 11 cases: Died (it would seem) from the drug administered 4 persons in 4 cases, viz: 1 in Goorgaon and 3 in Sealkote: Number of persons died or otherwise not shown in 32 cases. | | |
| | | | | Strangling cases: Two in Umritsur City: Arrested none. | | |
| | | | | (End of Punjab) | | |
| CENTRAL PROVINCES. | | (1) SAUGOR | 1 | { POLICE ADMINISTRATION REPORT:—"One robbery was effected by administering poison, but it does not appear that the criminal, who was arrested and convicted, was a professional poisoner." | | |
| | 13 | (2) JUBBULPORE | 1 | { This case does not appear in the Police Administration Report in the Crime Account for Jubbulpore, but it is included under Table H. The following account of it is obtained from a report of it received in this Office:—"On the 7th January 1864, a Gosaen named Talapoorie, resident of Sehora, was poisoned; three persons were arrested for it, of whom one Bhugwan, was acquitted, a woman named Kormsilla was sentenced to 6 years, and a Buniah named Ramdeen was fined in a sum of Rs. 25 for selling the poison." | | |
| | Crd. over } | 13 2 DISTRICTS | 2 | | | |

| GOVERNMENTS OF ADMINISTRATION. | | NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH NO CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER AND NAMES OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER OF CASES. | REMARKS. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|--|---|------------------|--|------------|-----|-----|---------|-----------|-----|-----|---------|---------|-----|-----|----------|
| CENTRAL PROVINCES. | rt. ver } | 13 | 2 DISTRICTS ... | 2 | { This case was also omitted from the Crime Report for Chindwara, but it is included in Table II. of the Police Administration Report. No account of it was given. POLICE ADMINISTRATION REPORT:—"Of the 6 murders, 2 were by poison, in one of which, two persons were hanged, and in the other a man was apprehended, whose case was pending at the close of the year."— MEMO:—(No account of these cases was given.) These 2 cases are designated "murder by thugs," and are taken from the Police Administration Report for 1865, where they are mentioned as of occurrence in 1864, but no account of them was given, and it is unknown whether they were cases of thuggee by strangulation or by poison. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | (3) CHINDWARA ... | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | (4) NAGPOOR ... | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | (5) NIMAR ... | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | | 13 | 5 Districts ... | 7 | { INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE:—Murder by poison 4 cases in 1864 against 2 in 1863. "None of the murders by poison were committed by professional poisoners." Table II. of the Police Administration Report for 1864. Murder by poison. <table><tr><td>Jubbulpore</td><td>...</td><td>...</td><td>1 case.</td></tr><tr><td>Chindwara</td><td>...</td><td>...</td><td>1 case.</td></tr><tr><td>Nagpore</td><td>...</td><td>...</td><td>2 cases.</td></tr></table> It will be perceived that the above are exclusive of the cases for Saugor and Nimar. Police Administration Report for Mundla:—"In another case of murder, a Gond and 2 accomplices fell upon their victim when asleep in the jungle, and strangled him. RECAPITULATION:—Seven cases: concerned 3 persons in 1 case (in Jubbulpore): Number concerned not shown in 6 cases: 7 persons arrested in 4 cases: No one arrested, it would seem, in 3 cases (in Chindwara and Nimar): 3 persons convicted in 2 cases: 2 persons convicted and 1 released in 1 case: Pending 1 person in one case (in Nagpore): Total convicted 5 persons in 3 cases, namely 2 hanged, 1 sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment, 1 fined, sentence of 1 not stated (in the Saugor case): 6 cases with murder, including 2 in Nimar (which may have been cases of strangulation): One case without murder. (End of Central Provinces.) | Jubbulpore | ... | ... | 1 case. | Chindwara | ... | ... | 1 case. | Nagpore | ... | ... | 2 cases. |
| Jubbulpore | ... | ... | 1 case. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chindwara | ... | ... | 1 case. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nagpore | ... | ... | 2 cases. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MADRAS. | Not specified. | | NOT SPECIFIED. | Not specified. | { The Criminal Statistics for Madras contain a classified list of 107 crimes of kinds, in none, however, of which, the offence of poisoning is anywhere mentioned as a distinct occurrence. They give 272 cases of "murder," 173 of "grievous hurt," and 831 of "hurt," which may possibly include some cases of administering poison; but no such case is anywhere distinctly so specified, whether in the Criminal Statistics for all Madras, in the Administration Report for the entire Madras Presidency, or in the Crime Statements for districts. The cases of "grievous hurt" and of "hurt" which occurred in each district, are lumped together, and the Sections of the Indian Penal Code under which they were investigated, are detailed, and as among them those Sections are specified, which more or less appertain to hurt caused by administering poisonous drugs, (namely, Sections 321, 325, 326, and 328, of the Indian Penal Code,) it may be concluded, that some at least of the cases coming under those Sections were comprehended under Hurt and grievous Hurt: but the number of each is not specified, and it cannot therefore be shown in the present Statement. MEMO:—Among the Statistical papers for the Madras Presidency for the previous year, i. e. for the year 1863, was a Table ("showing the nature and number of offences committed, &c.") in which cases of administering stupefying drugs (23 in number) were distinctly specified, as well as the number of cases which appertained to each of the above Sections, but the Returns received for Madras for 1864, do not contain any similar Table. (End of Madras.) | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| GOVERNMENTS OR ADMINISTRATIONS. | NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH NO CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER AND NAMES OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER OF CASES. | REMARKS. | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|------------------|--|--|------------|---|---|-----------|--|
| BOMBAY. | 30 | (1) KHANDESH ... | 2 | <p>These 2 cases being returned in the Khandesh Crime Report under Section 328 of the Indian Penal Code (causing hurt by means of poison, &c.) it is concluded that they are cases of <i>poisoning</i> and are here entered accordingly. One case was detected and 2 persons arrested for it, whose cases were pending. No separate account was given of these two cases.</p> <p>The following strangling cases are gathered from the Police Report and are here only noticed for what they are worth, viz. :—</p> <p>SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE :—"The 7th case (of murder) occurred on the 5th September 1864, in the Jungle of Seerood in Dhoolia. The public works in Khandesh had been suspended, and between 2 and 3,000 workmen in the Dhoolia and Chalisgam road were thrown out of employment. The deceased, Bhowanee Wullud Kama, had gone to Seerood for some liquor for his master. He drank some at the shop and was returning with 4 bottles of it, when he was set upon by one Sheik Chand and by one Heeroo Chambhar and strangled apparently for the sake of a few ornaments only. Three persons were concerned, one of whom, Lutchemunna, who had been refused a share in the booty, was admitted as Queen's evidence against the other two, and one of them, Sheik Chand, was sentenced to transportation for life."</p> <p>"The 8th case (of murder) occurred in the Jungle of Dhoodhe in Maligam, the exact date not known :—On the 1st September 1864, the body of a Mhang <i>Garodee</i>, name not known, was found in the Jungle of Dhoodhe a mile distant from the village. From the state of the corpse it appeared that death had taken place some 4 or 5 days previously. <i>Two ropes of Ambaree were round the neck, as well as a Pugree tied in a noose.</i> The man had evidently been murdered some distance from the spot, as several small articles, no doubt the property of the deceased, were found in the Jungle about a mile from the place where the body was found. Searching enquiry was made but the body could not even be identified by any one."</p> <p>MEMO :—(The deceased belonged to a wandering Tribe, <i>vide Garodee Mhangs</i> No. 26, in "Major Herve's List of Wandering Tribes," and he was probably a straggler when met by his murderers. This case resembles the mysterious cases near Oonao in Oudh in 1861-62.)</p> | | | | | | |
| | | (2) TOWN AND ISLAND OF BOMBAY. | 1 | <p>ANNUAL POLICE RETURNS.—"There was only one case of administering poison, in which one man was concerned, brought before the Magistrate in 1864, and this case was dismissed for want of evidence."</p> | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 30 | 2 DISTRICTS ... | 3 | <p>Detected 1 case : Arrested 2 persons : Pending 2 persons.</p> <p>The Bombay Returns exhibited the following further cases, some of which may or may not have been poisoning cases, but no separate notice of them was given, viz. :—</p> <table><tr><td>Under Section 324 Indian Penal Code (causing hurt by dangerous means, including "by means of any poison.")</td><td>103 cases.</td><td><div>28 in Ahmedabad. 22 in Kaira. 9 in Khandesh. 15 in the Punch Mehals. 24 in Surat-cum-Broach. 5 in Tanna.</div></td></tr><tr><td>Under Section 326, (causing grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means, including "by means of any poison.")</td><td>26 cases.</td><td><div>5 in Ahmedabad. 7 in Kaira. 2 in Khandesh. 5 in the Punch Mehals. 4 in Surat-cum-Broach. 3 in Tannah.</div></td></tr></table> <p>The Police Report for Kaira gives the following case of drugging, which possibly was accidentally committed :—"In murder case No. 9, an infant at Dubban in Neriad, died from the effects of an over dose of opium administered by a woman named Suklee. The accused was arrested, but was released by the Magistrate for want of proof."</p> <p>Blank Returns were received from the several districts of Bombay in respect of the crime of "Thuggee."</p> <p>(End of Bombay.)</p> | Under Section 324 Indian Penal Code (causing hurt by dangerous means, including "by means of any poison.") | 103 cases. | <div>28 in Ahmedabad. 22 in Kaira. 9 in Khandesh. 15 in the Punch Mehals. 24 in Surat-cum-Broach. 5 in Tanna.</div> | Under Section 326, (causing grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means, including "by means of any poison.") | 26 cases. | <div>5 in Ahmedabad. 7 in Kaira. 2 in Khandesh. 5 in the Punch Mehals. 4 in Surat-cum-Broach. 3 in Tannah.</div> |
| Under Section 324 Indian Penal Code (causing hurt by dangerous means, including "by means of any poison.") | 103 cases. | <div>28 in Ahmedabad. 22 in Kaira. 9 in Khandesh. 15 in the Punch Mehals. 24 in Surat-cum-Broach. 5 in Tanna.</div> | | | | | | | | |
| Under Section 326, (causing grievous hurt by dangerous weapons or means, including "by means of any poison.") | 26 cases. | <div>5 in Ahmedabad. 7 in Kaira. 2 in Khandesh. 5 in the Punch Mehals. 4 in Surat-cum-Broach. 3 in Tannah.</div> | | | | | | | | |

| GOVERNMENTS OR ADMINISTRATION. | NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH NO CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER AND NAMES OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER OF CASES. | REMARKS. |
|--------------------------------|--|---|------------------|--|
| MYSORE. | Unknown. | UNKNOWN. | Unknown. | <p>No Police Administration Report for Mysore has been received in this Office from which any poisoning cases might be gleaned. It is believed that the crime is committed in Mysore as in other parts of India.</p> <p>The Judicial Commissioner of the <i>P</i>rovince sent blank Statements of cases of "Thuggee" for Mysore and for Croog.</p> <p><i>(End of Mysore.)</i></p> |
| HYDERABAD ASSIGNED DISTRICTS. | Not specified. | NOT SPECIFIED ... | ... | <p>No cases were reported to this Office, and the Police Administration Report does not make any separate mention of any cases of poisoning.</p> <p>It however gives 40 cases of "causing hurt," and 14 cases of "voluntarily causing hurt," which may include some poisoning cases.</p> <p>The Extra Assistant General Superintendent, stationed in 1864 at Akola, reported that no cases of "Thuggee" (by strangulation) had taken place.</p> <p><i>(End of Hyderabad Assigned Districts.)</i></p> |

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE ;
 DELHI,
The 9th May, 1868.

CHAS. HERVEY, *Colonel,*
General Supdt. of Operations for the
Suppression of Thuggee and Dacoity.

ABSTRACT STATEMENT of reported poisoning cases throughout British Territory in the year 1864, as gathered from the several Police Administration Reports and from other sources, viz:—

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------------|
| Bengal | ... | ... | ... | ... | 21 cases. |
| North-Western Provinces | ... | ... | ... | ... | 47 „ |
| Oudh | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 „ |
| Punjab | ... | ... | ... | ... | 36 „ |
| Central Provinces | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 „ |
| Madras | ... | ... | ... | ... | None specified. |
| Bombay | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 cases. |
| Mysore and Coorg | ... | ... | ... | ... | Unknown. |
| Hyderabad Assigned Districts | ... | ... | ... | ... | None specified. |
| Total number of reported cases | | | | | 122 |

MEMO:—As the number of persons concerned, arrested, convicted, &c., is not uniformly stated for each province, no summary account thereof is here shown; but some information on the subject may be acquired by a reference to the Statement for each district.

For further particulars, *vide* the Statement for each Presidency or Administration. Two of the cases, *viz*: in Nimar, may have been cases of Thuggee by strangulation. Other cases of strangling, namely, 2 in Bengal, 2 in the Punjab (Umritsur,) 1 in the Central Provinces (Mundla,) and 2 in Bombay (Khandesh,) have been noticed in their proper places in the Column of Remarks, but are *not* included in the total number of ~~17~~ here returned.

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE; }
DELHI,
The 9th May, 1868.

CHAS. HERVEY, Colonel,
General Supdt. of Operations for the
Suppression of Thuggee and Dacoity.

STATEMENT
OF
THUGGEE BY MEANS OF POISON, &c.,
•IN
BRITISH DISTRICTS
FOR THE
YEAR 1865.

STATEMENT of reported Cases of Thuggee by means of poison in British Districts during the year 1865.

| Governments or Administrations. | Number of Districts in which no Cases were reported. | Number and Names of Districts in which Cases were reported. | Number of cases. | REMARKS |
|---------------------------------|--|---|------------------|---|
| | | | | |
| BENGAL. | | 49 (1) Howrah, | 1 | <p>2nd April 1865.—A party of 11 or 12 travellers, men, women and children, were met by two men who stated that they intended to <i>proceed to the same place as themselves</i>. "They made themselves quite friendly with the travellers, one of them carrying a cage of pigeons for them." On reaching Baguan in the evening, the entire party put up for the night at a shop and began to cook their food. They prepared three cooking places or stoves. "One of the strangers took charge of the entire stove. After the food had been prepared, they all, with the exception of two children who were too sleepy to wait, took their dinner." The two strangers would not partake of the curry they had assisted in cooking, but made their meal from some tamarinds which they had bought at the shop, mixed with an egg curry separately prepared. "Shortly after, the travellers, (5 men and 4 women,) dropped down, one after another, in a state of insensibility." The Shop Keeper went for the Police, but by his return the two strangers had fled. The poisoned parties did not recover their senses for some days, and they then told their story, but the only information they could give of the criminals was that one of them had a sore leg. Both were subsequently arrested, who confessed not only to this but to another case at Baguan in Howrah, and to some other cases in Bidwan, Midnapore, Dum-Dum and Calcutta. Jotoo who was traced by his bad leg, and his accomplice Nedan, were convicted in this case and sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment. They described how they had contrived to drug both the curry and the rice while under preparation in separate pots.</p> <p>The date of the other case at Baguan above alluded to, is not given, but it was reported to this Office that the victims were two Hindoostanee travellers, who recovered: plundered rupees 8; Concerned 4 persons one of whom (Jebun) had died: Arrested 3, of whom one (Peeroo) died in Jail, another (Jotco) was convicted in the case last recorded, and the third (Peeroo) could not be prosecuted in this case, owing to the subsequent death of the two persons who were poisoned in it.</p> |
| | | (2) Bhagulpore, | 1 | <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL POLICE - "In the beginning of the year several cases of poisoning occurred. These are mentioned under a separate head." (Memo. The separate heading here referred to, gave 5 cases of poisoning in Bhagulpore as included among 23 cases of poisoning "many of which occurred long ago.")</p> <p>The above would seem to include the celebrated case of the murder of a Priest in the Padooka Temple at Bhagulpore (19th October 1864,) in which 2 of the criminals were subsequently hanged "in sight of the turrets of the Temple where they had murdered the Priest," and another, known as the <i>Champanullah Case</i> of occurrence in 1862. It cannot be stated from the account given in the Police Administration Report, what particular cases of those that remain of the five of occurrence in Bhagulpore, are identical with those which took place in the year under review (1865,) except one viz: at Colgong near Bhagulpore of occurrence, it is believed, in May of that year or soon after. The Poisoners concerned, found a gang of 7 or 8 men whose head quarters were, it would seem, at Colgong itself. They had committed several other acts of the crime and had now set out on an expedition of poisoning "under the pretence of going out hunting."—On their return they fell in with a traveller. They all rested under a tree for refreshment and the usual scratch meal or "tiffin." The victim took out some <i>Suttoo</i>, and leaving it at the tree went to draw water from a well close by. Whereupon one of the poisoners, produced a powder from his pouch and handed it to another, who mixed it with the meal or <i>Suttoo</i>—"The traveller returned, partook of the <i>Suttoo</i>, and walked on, the gang walking behind him. After proceeding about 2 miles he fell down and became insensible." He was thereupon at once robbed. "The traveller died where he fell. The Chowkeydar of the village Jangoo, was in league with the Gang and being a relative of Tola Chowkeydar," (a member of the Gang)" disposed of the dead body, by inducing some Mahomedan <i>Dhobees</i> who lived near the spot, to bury it, telling them that the deceased was of their caste. The body was thereupon buried near the tree where the traveller fell—and not in the usual burial place of the village." Three persons were arrested in this case, who confessed not only to this but to some previous similar murders at Shawraguddy in Purneah in 1863. They took the detective to the spot where they had buried the man, on excavating which "a skull and skeleton were discovered." One man was admitted as Queen's evidence and the other two were sentenced to transportation for life, which was confirmed by the High Court. Three others of the Gang (Boothoo, Phooloo, and Nunkoo,) were also convicted of this offence as stated in the Police Administration Report for 1866—vide para 3, page 293,—the sentence was not stated. (MEMO.—For an account of this and the Shawraguddy, Padooka Temple, and Champanullah Cases, vide paras. 132, 135, 142 and 157 of the Police Administration Report, Lower Provinces, for 1865, in the Appendix to the present Statement.)</p> |
| | Ord } over } | 49 2 Districts, | 2 | |

| Governments or Administrations. | Number of Districts in which no Cases were reported. | Number and Names of Districts in which Cases were reported. | Number of cases. | REMARKS |
|---------------------------------|--|---|------------------|--|
| Bt. over } | 49 | 2 Districts, | 2 | <p>April 1865 (exact date not stated.)—Concerned 4 persons. In this case poison was administered to a Shop Keeper. He became insensible but recovered after a day. Two of the culprits were sentenced to 10 years' transportation. A third died in the Jail and the remaining man was admitted as an Approver. This is known as the <i>Godie Case</i>. The Gang had not found any victims in their expedition, so they determined to drug a Modie or grain seller who had a shop at Godie and was reputed to be rich. One of the Gang disguised himself as a <i>Gosaen</i> or priest and the other three affected to be his <i>Chélas</i> (disciples.) They went up to the shop where the pretended priest began to utter the usual incantations and to perform worship—and he then distributed some "pershad" or consecrated offering to his disciples who held it in their hands. Some was then offered to the Modie, who, at first declining, was persuaded to eat it on being assured it was <i>Pershad</i>; insensibility and delirium followed—"he rolled on the ground in agony." Perceiving that his condition attracted the notice of his neighbours "the pretended priest and disciples decamped without having an opportunity of plundering him." (For this case vide para. 139 of the Appendix.)</p> <p>MEMO.—For similar instances of poisoning by administering drugged <i>Pershad</i>, vide Colonel Hervey's Reports of cases in the Southern Mahratta Country as Assistant General Superintendent for the Bombay Presidency, Selections from the Records of the Bombay Government 1850.</p> |
| BENGAL. | | (3) Sonthal Pergunahs, | 1 | <p>In an Abstract Statement of drugging cases given under para. 98 of the Police Administration Report already above referred to, 9 cases in Monghyr are included among the 23 cases there shown to have been discovered this year, "many of which occurred long ago:" but in the detailed account thereof, the following two cases only would seem to have occurred in 1865 in Monghyr, viz:</p> <p>(1.) 29th April 1865 at Balm Chowkey: Victims 3: Of whom died 2: Recovered 1: Plundered Rs. 9: Concerned 2 persons: Arrested 2, who were hanged. Two Sonars and a Brahmin met at Mahadaba, two men, who called themselves Koormees. They journeyed together all day, and when cooking in the evening, the two Koormees gave some <i>Suttia</i> to the 3 travellers, after eating which, the three became insensible. Two of them died but the Brahmin recovered. The local Police could make nothing of the case. Through the confessions of a Poisoner named <i>Lutchmun</i>, who, while undergoing a sentence of ten years' imprisonment in the Patna Jail awarded to him and another man named <i>Kooshree</i>, in 1863, for their administering drugs to travellers, were examined by Mr. Reilly at the outset of these special investigations and through whose information principally, the present and other cases were traced, a man named <i>Zahin</i> was arrested, on whose confession seven persons of a gang of Poisoners were arrested at Bhagulpore, and through the information imparted by one of them named <i>Nuthoo</i>, a clue was found implicating 2 others named <i>Scodeen</i> and <i>Beharee</i>, who, he said, had left home on an expedition of poisoning about three weeks previously, and who, he believed, "had most likely killed the two Sonars in the present case. They were arrested, when <i>Beharee</i> was at once identified by the Brahmin as one of the two Koormees by whom he and the two Sonars had been poisoned, but <i>Scodeen</i> contrived to effect his escape by means of a bribe, but he was very cleverly tracked by two of Mr. Reilly's detectives as he was making his way to the Nipal Frontier. Both men were subsequently executed.</p> <p>(2.) December 1865 at Kurkuree Pahar above the Railway Tunnel close to Jumalpoore Station: Victim one who died: Plundered Rs. 12-6-0 and some articles: Concerned 4 persons: Arrested 4. Two poisoners (named <i>Rajbhallab</i> and <i>Sookreen</i>) were returning from an expedition to Jumalpoore. They met two other poisoners in company with a traveller and they turned back with them. They rested at a well close below the Kurkuree Hill,—"and as it was a hot day, one of the poisoners named <i>Roocha</i>, prepared some <i>sherbet</i> in two lotas with sugar. He mixed poison in one of the lotas and gave it to the traveller, who drank the contents. The Poisoners drank from the other lotah." They then climbed the Hill, at the top of which the traveller sat under a tree, "partially insensible."—By and bye <i>Roocha</i> put his hand to his waist feeling for his money, perceiving which the man, who was still conscious, laid hold of his hand,—upon this "<i>Roocha</i> drew his hand away, and taking the traveller up in his arms, threw him down on the rock. Another of them named <i>Rahmull Kulleefa</i> then took up a large stone and dashed it on his chest. Blood flowed from the man's nose and he died."</p> <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL POLICE:—"Unfortunately the Police had never heard of the case,—there was no <i>corpus delicti</i>, and no independent evidence to corroborate the confessions. For these reasons the murderers were not committed for trial to the Sessions. <i>Roocha</i> escaped from the hands of the Police and <i>Rahmull Kulleefa</i> was proceeded against as a bad character." (MEMO.—For an account of this and the preceding case, vide paras. 116 and 160 of the Extract from the Police Administration Report given in the Appendix.) The two Approvers in this case subsequently overreached themselves in giving evidence against two other accomplices (<i>Bugbut</i> and <i>Lakah</i>) in another case of occurrence at Toolshcepore, in which two women were drugged sometime in 1865,—exact date not stated or the District in which it took place.—They were bribed to give <i>partial evidence</i> and were therefore convicted on their own confessions in the</p> |
| | 49 | 4 Districts, | 6 | |
| Ord over } | | | | |

| Governments or Administrations. | Number of Districts in which no Cases were reported. | Number and Names of Districts in which Cases were reported. | Number of cases. | REMARKS |
|---------------------------------|--|---|------------------|--|
| | | | | |
| Bt. } over } | 49 | 4 Districts, | 6 | latter case and were sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment, as narrated in the Police Administration Report for 1866, page 294, para. 4, where the Inspector General Police hoped, "the lesson thus read to Queen's Witnesses, would prove salutary." The third case is gathered from a Statement received in this Office from Mr. Reily, the Superintendent of the Detective Department on Special Duty. (3.) At Futehpore on the 10th January 1865: Victims 2: Recovered 2, of whom one subsequently died: Plundered rupees 5-8-0: Concerned 1 person: Arrested 1. In this case, which occurred across the Ganges, the Police had failed. One of the drugged parties on being confronted with the prisoners arrested in another case, immediately recognized one of them named <i>Kasee Dosad</i> , as the man who had drugged him. The other victim "on the night he was drugged, while out of his senses from the effects of the <i>Dhatoura</i> , while rolling about fell into the fire which had been made to warm themselves. He was so severely burnt that he died six weeks after." |
| BENGAL. | | (5) Patna, | 1 | 13th February 1865: This is known as the Bykutpoor case. Two men were found insensible in a Serai. They recovered after some time: Concerned 2 persons: Acquitted 2. The prisoners' names were <i>Bhugloo</i> and <i>Jehan</i> , the latter of whom was also concerned in the <i>Bagnan</i> affair (quod vide under Howrah). He subsequently died. Two Brahmin Travellers met two lads on the road to Patna, who offered them a Silver wrist ornament for sale saying they wanted to go to Juggurnath but had no money for the purpose. Further on they met another traveller, who declared the <i>bangle</i> to be worth 17 rupees and pretended to be desirous to purchase it but had not the money at hand, his house was close by "would the two Brahmins be so good as to lend him that amount"? They assented and were asked to keep the article in their possession till the promised payment for it was fulfilled. Presently the traveller proceeded in another direction and did not return. The Brahmins perceiving this proceeded with their journey when soon they were joined by two other travellers close to Bykutpoor, who on arrival there went with them to the provisioner's shop and there purchased some rice and dal for them with which they prepared their meal. "After eating the food the Brahmins became insensible, and when they recovered their senses they found the two travellers had fled with the bangle and every thing they possessed." (MEMO:—For more about this case, the cause of its failure in Sessions and the high opinion expressed of the detective ability displayed by Mr. Reily in tracing it out, vide paras. 108 to 113 in Extract from the Police Administration Report for 1865, given in the Appendix. |
| | | (6) Sarun, | 3 | POLICE ADMINISTRATION REPORT:—"Three poisoning cases occurred, all of which were detected. The Police shewed much judgement in the way they followed them up." (MEMO.—No account was given of these 3 cases in the Police Administration Report for 1865,—nor are they anywhere mentioned in the Extract from it in the Appendix which comprises an account of the special investigation into cases of this nature conducted by Mr. Reily.) |
| | | (7) Calcutta (Town and Suburbs,) | 12 | These cases are gathered from the Report on the Police of the Town of Calcutta and its Suburbs 1865-66, (Tables A. and C.) under "causing hurt by means of poisons" in respect of the Town, and "thefts by administering drugs" in respect of the Suburbs.—Number of cases brought to trial 11: Not brought to trial 1: Arrested 17 persons: Convicted 3: Acquitted 14: Plundered in 3 cases in the Suburbs Rs. 839-2-0: Property plundered not stated in 9 cases in the Town: Recovered Rs. 768 in the 3 cases in the Suburbs: Property recovered not shown in the 9 cases in the Town. No other details were given. COMMISSIONER OF POLICE OF CALCUTTA:—"Administering drugs with intent to rob:—There was only one case of this nature reported during the year as having occurred in Town" (!) (1.) "Two men named Nilkanto Dutt and Hurris Chunder Dutt, noted bad characters, who had been long suspected by the Police of drugging Prostitutes and then robbing them, were detected on the 25th June 1865, when Nilkanto was arrested by the Police. Hurris Chunder escaped and is still at large. Nilkanto was committed to the Sessions and, on the 16th August, was sentenced to 10 years' transportation." (MEMO. The above case would seem to be one of the 9 committed in the Town and it took place on the 10th February 1865. It was committed on a prostitute who recovered: Plundered Rs. 60: Implicated 2 persons: Arrested 2.) (2.) Another of the Town cases took place on the 1st June 1865 in the Kolah Bazar, in which another prostitute was poisoned, who recovered: Plundered Rs. 6: Implicated 1 person:—"This case was ascertained on the confession of Peeroo. The crime was committed by <i>Kallee Metiewallah</i> ," (vide another case committed at the same place by Peeroo in the Statement for 1864:) (3.) A third Town case took place at Mydab Patteree (?) on the 2nd June 1865, when another prostitute was poisoned, who recovered: plundered rupees 30: Implicated 1 person: Arrested 1:—"This case was committed by Nilmoney (above called Nilkanto) who has been arrested and has been identified by the poisoned woman and by the owner of the House in which the deed was committed." For four other cases of poisoning and robbing Prostitutes with <i>Dhatoura</i> , and for the <i>Modus Operandi</i> , viz., (1) at Kidderpore, (2) near Dum-Dum, (3) at Tallee-gunge, (4) in the Sham Bazaar, vide paras. 173, 182, 189 and 192 of the Police |
| Ord } over } | 49 | 7 Districts, | 22 | |

| Governments or Administrations. | Number of Districts in which no Cases were reported. | Number and Names of Districts in which Cases were reported. | Number of Cases. | REMARKS. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------|---|--|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|------------|--------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|----------|------------------|---|---|----|----|---|--|-------------------|---|----|----|---|----|---------------------------|-----------------------|---|----|----|---|----|------------------|---------------------|---|---|----|----|---|--|--------------------------|---|---|----|----|---|--|--------------------|----|----|----|----|----|--|
| Bt) over) | 49 | 7 Districts, | 22 | <p>Administration Report, Lower Provinces, given in the Appendix. The dates of those cases were not given, and it is therefore uncertain whether they are included in the 12 cases returned in the present Statement for the Town and Suburbs of Calcutta, or whether they occurred prior to 1865.</p> <p>(The following case is here only noticed by the way, viz: POLICE COMMISSIONER CALCUTTA: "On the morning of the 16th November a woman aged about 65 years was found dead in her house at Puttoohparah in the Bhowanepore Section. There were marks of strangulation on her throat, and her boxes were found burst open and a lot of Jewellery stolen. The deceased was reputed amongst her neighbours to be a woman of considerable wealth, but as she lived alone and was not on intimate terms with her neighbours, the exact amount of property stolen is unknown. The Police are of opinion that the murder was committed by a gang of professional burglars, but though every possible exertion has been made, and large rewards have been offered, not the slightest clue has been obtained as to who committed the murder.")</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BENGAL. | | | | <p>No separate account has been given of the Police action in these 22 cases, for it will have been perceived that while it was described for some of the cases in some Districts, it has been either omitted or only partially given in others.</p> <p>Mention is made in the Police Administration Report (vide para. 170 in the Appendix,) of a case in the Burdwan District and another at Midnapore, but as no dates were given, it is unknown whether they were included in the cases for 1865, or took place at a prior date.</p> <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL POLICE.—"At the beginning of 1865, the Deputy Inspector General of the 3rd Circle, brought to notice the existence of certain bodies of men who made it their trade to stupefy and rob persons travelling on the high road between Bhagulpoore and Patna; in some instances death had resulted, and the Head of the Detective Department (Mr. Reily) with some of his best Inspectors was deputed to enquire into the matter, and his exertions have been attended with the most satisfactory results: many cases of poisoning which occurred long ago, have been brought to light, and more than one gang of professional poisoners, who, for years, had plied their trade without suspicion, has been completely broken up. The following shews the result of the cases investigated:—</p> <table><tr><th colspan="6">Abstract Statement of drugging cases.</th></tr><tr><th>DISTRICTS.</th><th>No of cases.</th><th>No. of persons arrested.</th><th>No. of person discharged.</th><th>Number of persons made Queen's evidence.</th><th>Number of persons committed for trial.</th><th>REMARKS.</th></tr><tr><td>Patna,</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>..</td><td>..</td><td>2</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Monghyr,</td><td>9</td><td>21</td><td>..</td><td>4</td><td>17</td><td>Three capitally punished.</td></tr><tr><td>Bhagulpoore,</td><td>5</td><td>29</td><td>..</td><td>7</td><td>22</td><td>Two ditto ditto.</td></tr><tr><td>Howrah,</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>..</td><td>..</td><td>3</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>24 Pargunnahs,</td><td>6</td><td>9</td><td>..</td><td>..</td><td>8</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Total,</td><td>23</td><td>64</td><td>..</td><td>11</td><td>52</td><td></td></tr></table> | Abstract Statement of drugging cases. | | | | | | DISTRICTS. | No of cases. | No. of persons arrested. | No. of person discharged. | Number of persons made Queen's evidence. | Number of persons committed for trial. | REMARKS. | Patna, | 1 | 2 | .. | .. | 2 | | Monghyr, | 9 | 21 | .. | 4 | 17 | Three capitally punished. | Bhagulpoore, | 5 | 29 | .. | 7 | 22 | Two ditto ditto. | Howrah, | 2 | 3 | .. | .. | 3 | | 24 Pargunnahs, | 6 | 9 | .. | .. | 8 | | Total, | 23 | 64 | .. | 11 | 52 | |
| Abstract Statement of drugging cases. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DISTRICTS. | No of cases. | No. of persons arrested. | No. of person discharged. | Number of persons made Queen's evidence. | Number of persons committed for trial. | REMARKS. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Patna, | 1 | 2 | .. | .. | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Monghyr, | 9 | 21 | .. | 4 | 17 | Three capitally punished. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bhagulpoore, | 5 | 29 | .. | 7 | 22 | Two ditto ditto. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Howrah, | 2 | 3 | .. | .. | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 24 Pargunnahs, | 6 | 9 | .. | .. | 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total, | 23 | 64 | .. | 11 | 52 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 49 | 7 Districts, | 22 | <p>REMARKS BY THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT:—Mr. Reily was, on the recommendation of the late Colonel Bruce, at that time Inspector General Police for Bengal, placed by the Lieutenant Governor in communication with myself. He freely consulted me and kept me informed of all his proceedings. The results were reported by me to the Lieutenant Governor with high mention of the great intelligence Mr. Reily had displayed in the investigations and the success which had attended them. Mr. Reily's proceedings are narrated in detail by the present Inspector General Police in the Appendix in continuation of the above extracts from his own Report on the subject.</p> <p>LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF BENGAL:—"The action of the Detective Department under Mr. Reily, in bringing to light and preventing many cases of robbery by the aid of poisonous drugs, was apparently most successful and deserving of high commendation."</p> <p>(End of Bengal for 1865.)</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Governments or Administrations. | Number of Districts in which no Cases were reported. | Number and Names of Districts in which Cases were reported. | Number of Cases. | REMARKS. |
|---------------------------------|--|---|------------------|---|
| NORTH WESTERN PROVINCES. | 12 | (1) Meerut, | 3 | <p>No detailed Statements were given in these cases.</p> <p>POLICE ADMINISTRATION REPORT:—"The only three cases of poisoning were simply the result of enmity, and not professional poisoning cases."</p> <p>For more about these cases vide Saharanpore and Boolundshahur, particularly one at Ghurmuktesir, which would seem to have been the deed of a Brahmin and a Kaeth, who administered the drug in some country liquor. One <i>Kulloo Lodhee</i>, a professional poisoner, would also seem to have been implicated in one of the cases (vide also Boolundshahur.)</p> |
| | | (2) Allygurh, | 3 | <p>POLICE ADMINISTRATION REPORT:—"In two out of three cases of professional poisoning, the offenders were punished."</p> <p>DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL 1ST DIVISION:—"Allygurh 1 case, defendant, Soba Ram, convicted—an old offender—sentence 10 years transportation."</p> <p>No further details were given—but the following is an account of one of the cases:</p> <p>21st January 1865.—The person drugged was a Brahmin boy, 14 years of age. He was returning home from delivering letters at different places, when he was met outside of Coel (Allygurh) by a man who pretended to be also a Brahmin and to be going in the same direction. They travelled together on the Agra road, and alighted for the night at the Parao or halting place of a village by the way. Here they eat separately, each his own <i>poorees</i> (or pudd.) after which the stranger gave some sugar to the boy and a <i>chillum</i> to smoke. The boy swallowed a mouthful of the sugar, but <i>finding it bitter</i> threw the rest away:—"Shortly afterwards I began to feel dizzy and all my joints began to ache—I called loudly for help and don't know what became of me, and how I have come back to Coel." The criminal, <i>Sobharam</i>, was seized on the spot. He was an old offender and belonged to a gang of Poisoners located in Allygurh, but he was only a <i>Khutteek</i>, a low caste, and yet was able to borrow a <i>chillum</i> from a Brahmin! He was convicted and sentenced to transportation for 10 years.</p> |
| | | (3) Saharanpore, | 2 | <p>The Police Administration Report contains no separate mention of these cases, but they are included in the Table of offences in Appendix I of the Report. No one arrested.</p> <p>These cases occurred in November close upon each other, the criminal in each instance having hired a Pony, drugged the <i>Syee</i> or groom, and then decamped with the animal. (For more about these and one or more other cases, vide Boolundshahur.)</p> |
| | | (4) Moozuffernuggur, | 2 | <p>Not mentioned in the separate account for Districts, but included in the Table of offences in Appendix I, Police Administration Report. No arrests shown.</p> <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL POLICE:—"A gang of thieves, by caste Pathans, known as <i>Beloochees</i> or <i>Reends</i>, have been reported as residing under certain Chiefs in the Mozuffernuggur district, who gain their livelihood by thieving expeditions into Central India. They have no objection, however, to practising <i>Thuggee</i> or <i>Poisoning</i> by <i>Dhatoorah</i> when opportunity offers." (MEMO.—These people have been mentioned in the Dacoity Statistical Statements prepared in this Office for 1864, 1865 and 1866, under Ajmere and some other Districts)</p> |
| | | (5) Boolundshahur, | 2 | <p>Omitted to be mentioned in the separate District account, but included in the Table of Crimes in the Police Administration Report for 1865.</p> <p>It was reported to this Office that a sudden outbreak of Poisoning by <i>Dhatoorah</i> had appeared in the Districts of Meerut, Saharanpore and Boolundshahur, several cases having occurred in a short space of time.</p> <p>One of the cases here returned was committed by two persons pretending to be a Kaeth and his Brahmin servant, and the other case, it would seem, by a person who turned out to be one Kulloo an old offender (vide Meerut supra.) A man named Kulloo had recently fulfilled imprisonment for 4 years in a former case in Meerut in 1860, and another man of the same name who was a <i>Lodhi</i>, had similarly been recently enlarged from Jail after undergoing an imprisonment of five years for an offence of the same nature at Peshawur in 1859.</p> |
| | | (6) Barcily, | 2 | <p>No mention of these cases in the separate reports for these Districts, but they are included in the Crime Table in Appendix I of the Police Administration Report.</p> |
| | | (7) Bijnour, | 1 | |
| | | (8) Moorabad, | 2 | |
| | | (9) Budaon, | 1 | <p>POLICE ADMINISTRATION REPORT:—"In the most important case (of murder in Budaon) the victim evidently met his death at the hands of professional poisoners who have not yet been discovered."</p> <p>MEMO.—This case was omitted from the general Crime Table for Districts, Appendix I, Police Administration Report.</p> |
| | | (10) Shajehanpore, | 1 | <p>This case was not mentioned in the Report for the District but is included in the same general Crime Table.</p> <p>It took place on the 29th September 1865, and 5 persons were the victims in it, comprising an entire family, viz.: a man, his mother, younger brother and two sisters who were travelling together. They were joined in their journey by an old man in the garb of a religious Mendicant riding on a pony, who, when all had</p> |
| Ord } over } | 12 | 10 Districts, | 19 | |

| Governments or Administrations. | Number of Districts in which no Cases were reported. | Number and Names of Districts in which Cases were reported. | Number of Cases. | REMARKS |
|---------------------------------|--|---|------------------|--|
| | | | | |
| NORTH WESTERN PROVINCES. | 12 | 10 Districts, | 19 | <p>stopped at a Serai near the Stone Bridge at Shahjahanpore and had begun to take their evening meal, gave them some <i>goor</i> or conglutated treacle, which, he said, had been cast into his lotah by some kind person when he was begging. They eat it with their bread—and soon all were seized with illness, the symptoms being those of poisoning with the Dhatoorah. The pretended beggar was seized before he could get away, and a quantity of seeds of the Dhatoorah plant was found in the grass before his pony. He said he certainly had put some Dhatoorah seed in a small bag in his lotah, for he was in the habit of eating the drug as a stimulant, and that when he removed the bag, some of it must have slipped out of it and remained in his lotah when he went about with it for alms—and that as the bag had a hole in it, some of it must too, have dropped on the ground near his pony, but that he never poisoned the travellers.—Some unconsumed portion of the treacle which had been cast away, was given to a dog without effect and the man was acquitted in Sessions. But numerous similar instances of the crime, committed under the same device are on the Records of the Thuggee Department.</p> |
| | | (11) Agra, | 5 | <p>POLICE ADMINISTRATION REPORT:—"There were five cases of poisoning: Only one of them, however, appears to have been committed by a professional poisoner. Three of these cases were prosecuted to conviction, and in one the intention to poison is doubtful."</p> <p>Five cases are also entered in the Crime Table for the North Western Provinces, but the Police Administration Report does not contain any detailed account of them.</p> |
| | | (12) Muttra, | 2 | <p>These cases are not mentioned in the Crime Report for Muttra, but are included in the Crime Table.</p> <p>DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL 1ST DIVISION: Muttra—"One case, Nundkishore, committed to Sessions." (MEMO. Result not stated.) No separate account is given of either.</p> |
| | | (13) Furruckabad, .. | 2 | <p>These cases are omitted from the Crime Report for Furruckabad, but are included in the Crime Tables of the North Western Provinces, but the Police Administration Report does not contain any separate account of them.</p> <p>One case was attended with murder and the following account of both is obtained from a "Statement of cases of Thuggee" received from the local Magistrate.</p> <p>1st Case—24th May 1865, at Serni Heshum:—"A woman who lived outside of the Serai, eat some sweetmeat proffered to her by a Brahmin. It tasted bitter. She became insensible and was robbed. She was under treatment in the Hospital for two days and recovered, but was unable to give any account of the man, who consequently was not discovered."</p> <p>2nd Case—18th December 1865, at Allah Gunge:—"A man and a woman, administered some white arsenic mixed in sugar to a lad and his infant brother, of which both died. The offenders were arrested, and both were subsequently hanged."</p> |
| | | (14) Cawnpore, | 6 | <p>These cases were not mentioned in the separate Crime Report for Cawnpore, but are included in the general Crime Table, and the following account of one of the number, is taken from the Police Administration Report, but which does not contain any account of any of the others.</p> <p>On the 1st February 1865, three persons were picked up in a state of insensibility under the influence of Dhatoorah as evinced "by their all picking at the ground in a way peculiar to men suffering from the effects of that poison" Emetics being administered, the men regained consciousness after a considerable time, and stated that they had drank some milk which had been given them by three strangers, one, however, of whom, named <i>Ramdeen</i>, they had met before:—"These men were all afterwards apprehended in Oude as concerned in another case, and confessed to their having poisoned the above men at Muckunpore: they were sentenced to 10 years' transportation."</p> <p>MEMO.—<i>Ramdeen</i> was a registered Thug Poisoner in the Rolls of the Thuggee and Dacoity Department. In 1860 he and two others poisoned a Hackery driver in the Cawnpore District and robbed his Cart and Bullocks. The latter were traced but not the criminals.</p> |
| | | (15) Futtelpore, | 1 | <p>POLICE ADMINISTRATION REPORT:—"In the only case of robbery by administration of poison, the offender was very cleverly traced and all the property recovered: he was transported for life."</p> <p>The following is the account of this case as gathered from the Police Administration Report. A man and his son were driving a cart laden with sugar, (no date given.) On the road they were joined by one <i>Rodha</i>, who gave the elder man some <i>pán</i> in which some <i>Dhatoorah</i> had been mixed, which he eat and then became insensible. Whereupon the Poisoner threw the boy down a well and drove off the cart and bullocks. The well happened to be a dry one and the poor lad remained in it for some days, but was at length taken out of it by some travellers, greatly emaciated:—"Altogether some 8 days elapsed before information was given at the Police Station. Prompt enquiry resulted in the arrest of <i>R. dha</i></p> |
| Cd } over } | 12 | 15 Districts, | 35 | |

| Governments or Administrations. | Number of Districts in which no Cases were reported. | Number and Names of Districts in which Cases were reported. | Number of Cases. | REMARKS. |
|---------------------------------|--|---|------------------|--|
| NORTH WESTERN PROVINCES. | Bt. } over } | 12 15 Districts, | 35 | and the recovery of the cart and bullocks which had been sold in Cawnpore. The poisoner was transported for life, but nothing elicited at the trial which tended to prove the poisoner was one of a gang." (MEMO.—For similar instances of poisoning Hackery drivers and robbing them of their carts and bullocks, vide Allygurh and Rohituck in the Statement for 1864, Cawnpore in the present Statement, and paras. XIX and XXIV of my Report in the Foreign Department, No. 794, dated 15th September 1863. |
| | | (16) Banda, | 3 | { POLICE ADMINISTRATION REPORT :—"Three cases are reported of robbery after administering poison. * * * One case seems to have been the work of a professional, and he was convicted." The Police Administration Report contains an account of one only of the number. A traveller was, on the 1st August, found lying insensible upon the ground. On his recovering his senses some hours afterwards, he said he was travelling from Jhansi to Chutterkote and was joined on the road by a man who said he was a <i>Koormee</i> , at whose hands he eat of some <i>sultoo</i> and soon after became insensible, in which state he was robbed of his shoes, his money, and his brass pot. Some days subsequently the criminal was traced by the Police and arrested at a village in the Allahabad District, with his victim's shoes upon his feet and some Dhatoora in a bag upon his person. To the traveller he had given his name as <i>Kuthwa</i> , but his real name was <i>Thakooran Lodhi</i> , a professional poisoner. He was sentenced to transportation for life. |
| | | (17) Jounpore, | 1 | { This case is not mentioned in the District Crime Report, but is included in the Crime Table appended to the Police Administration Report. No account of it was given. |
| | | (18) Benares, | 2 | { POLICE ADMINISTRATION REPORT :—"Robbery by poison 2 cases; arrested 5 persons; acquitted 2; convicted 3 in 1 case. DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL 2ND DIVISION :—"Benares District.—Two cases of poisoning occurred, but without actual robbery, one on the 7th January, on the person of a pensioner who had come to Benares for his pay, and the other on the 27th February, on a woman. In the first case our man was concerned, and a <i>Kahar</i> named <i>Seebaddan</i> , who answered to the description of the poisoner, was arrested, but he was discharged by the Magistrate for want of sufficient proof. In the second case, both offenders were tried and sentenced to ten years' imprisonment." |
| | | (19) Goruckpore, | 3 | { These cases are omitted from the Crime Reports of these Districts but are included in the Crime Table, Appendix I of the Police Administration Report for 1865 |
| | | (20) Azimgurh, | 1 | { No detailed account of them was given. |
| | | (21) Ghazee pore, | 3 | { These cases were not mentioned in the District Crime Report, and two only were included in the Crime Table of the Police Administration Report. The third case is obtained from a special report to this Office and the following is a brief account of each as gathered from special reports: (1) 23rd January 1865 at Badlabud. The victim was found lying in a state of insensibility by a small shed in a potatoe field to which he had strayed. On his recovering his senses at a late hour on the following day he narrated that as he was travelling to Ghazee pore he was joined by a Mussulman who said he was also going there. Both by and bye, sat down under some Mangoo trees to refresh themselves. The traveller cooked his own food there and gave some of it to the stranger. They in fact partook of the meal together, and then proceeded with their journey. But presently the traveller began to feel very ill and then remembered nothing further. He was robbed while in this condition. No trace of the criminal could be gained. (2) 25th January 1865.—Another and a richer traveller, who was also going to Ghazee pore and had started with gold rings upon his ears and an ornament of gold about his neck, was found under a Peepul tree by the wayside, in a helpless state of insensibility. On his recovering his senses on the following day, he explained how he had met a man on the road on three different occasions the same day. On the first occasion nothing passed between them. By and bye he found him at a Well on the road side smoking a Hooka, and was asked by him to take a whiff, but he declined and the stranger went on. He came upon him yet again at another Well further on, where he had drawn water, of which he offered him some, but this too the traveller declined. But presently the stranger produced some Goor from his bundle and gave him some of it, and thus the traveller ate. It seemed very bad and nauseous, which the stranger explained away by saying it was Burrugong Sugar which was proverbially bad. They then both drank water and went on, when the usual consequences ensued, but the poisoned man happened to fall down insensible close to some wayside grain shops, so that he was not robbed. The stranger was a <i>Kahar</i> , but the traveller did not catch his name. The criminal escaped. (3) 28th September 1865.—Three travellers were found lying senseless at a Serni at Zohargunge to which they had come together the previous night,—that is to |
| Crd } over } | 12 | 21 Districts, | 48 | |

| Governments or Administrations. | Number of Districts in which no Cases were reported. | Number and Names of Districts in which Cases were reported. | Number of Cases. | REMARKS. |
|---|--|---|------------------|---|
| | | | | |
| Bt. } over } NORTH WESTERN PROVINCES. | 12 | 21 Districts, | 48 | say, one was completely insensible, but the other two seemed to be <i>shamming</i> , which was indeed the case, for the other man's money and property were found upon them. On recovering his senses late in the afternoon, the drugged man, who was a trader travelling to Benares to purchase cloth, explained that as he was passing by Ghazepore, he was joined by the other two,—that he endeavoured to avoid them, but that they persevered in keeping up with him, sometimes in front of him and sometimes behind. At length he even put up in the same Serai with them and presently even ate some food at their hands! He then lost consciousness and was robbed. The two criminals were a <i>Mullah</i> and a <i>Brahmin</i> (by name Matadeen and Sheonarnyun.) They were tried and sentenced to 7 years' imprisonment. |
| | | (22) Bustec, | 1 | <p>This case was not mentioned in the District Crime Report given in the Police Administration Report, but was included in the Crime Table.</p> <p>DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL 2ND DIVISION:—"On the 13th September 1865, a traveller put up at the House of a resident of a large village called Doohowlea (in Bustec) on the road from Ghaighat to Fyzabad: on the morning of the 18th, the Bukkal was found dead with evident marks of strangulation by means of a rope; jewels, value Rs. 10, had been taken from his person, and the traveller had departed. Every enquiry was instituted and descriptive Rolls promptly promulgated, but no clue could be gained of the offender."</p> <p>MEMO.—This case, classed as one of <i>Thuggee</i>, was included in the Crime Table of the Police Administration Report among those of <i>robbery by administration of poison</i>.</p> |
| | | (23) Lullutpore, | 1 | <p>This case was not alluded to in the separate Report for this District, but was included in the Crime Tables appended to the Police Administration Report—but no account of it was given,—the following is gathered from a special report of it to this Office, viz.: Three persons were going on a pilgrimage, when they were joined by a man and two women:—The strangers, as a charitable action due to pilgrims, fed them at the close of the first day's journey—but without any evil results. On the following day they did so again, and on this occasion the pilgrims became insensible. They did not recover consciousness for 24 hours and one of them subsequently died in the Hospital at Mow Ranepore. No traces of the criminals were acquired, but the name of one of them, i. e., of the man <i>Jowahir Lohar</i>, was identical with that of a member of the gang of Ilurpershad the notorious poisoner, whose Head Quarters were in Bundelkund, and whose principal vocation was to poison cart drivers and drive off their cart and bullocks as before described.</p> <p>MEMO.—It is doubtful whether this case occurred in the Jhansi District or in Lullutpore, but as the Police Administration Report, gives a blank Return for the former, and returns one case for Lullutpore, it is here described as if appertaining to the latter district. If it should be a distinct case, then the total number of cases for all the North Western Provinces must be augmented by one.</p> |
| | | | | <p>These cases include 48 cases as gathered from the Police Administration Report (one of which, in Bustec, was thought to be a case of <i>Thuggee</i>) and 2 extra cases which took place in Budaon and Ghazepore, as explained under those Districts.</p> <p>But yet another case is mentioned in the Police Administration Report, which may or may not belong to the above cases, the District in which it occurred being not only left unmentioned but the case itself being described under the heading of "Systematic cases of Cheating,"—(vide Appendix B of the Police Administration Report) viz.:</p> <p>One Mahomed Hosein induced one Nubbee Bux to believe that he could get some bullocks cheap. Nubbee Bux accompanied him taking Rs. 202; <i>en route</i> Mahomed Hosein suddenly pulled up, saying they could smoke at a friend's. Here shortly after smoking, Nubbee Bux became senseless, and when he recovered he found himself at some distance from the House <i>minus</i> his money. Next day he complained. Badul Khan, the owner of the House, said that "yes, certainly, he had won Rs. 40 from Plaintiff, and fancied that plaintiff in that manner hoped to recover money which he had honestly lost to him; as to Mahomed Hosein he never heard of such a person, nor had any one but plaintiff been in his House the day before." The case was dismissed. (MEMO.—This case is, I think, decidedly one of drugging—the device of inducing people to accompany them with money for the purchase of cattle, being one that is resorted to by poisoners, for an instance of which vide Mozuffernuggur in the Statement for 1864.)</p> <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL POLICE: <i>Thuggee</i>.—1 case from 1861 to 1864: Committed in 1865, 1 case: Undetected at the end of 1865, 2 cases: Lost Rs. 10. (MEMO. This case is identical with that included as above under Bustec: <i>quod vide</i>.)</p> <p><i>Robbery by Poison</i>: 93 cases from 1861 to 1864: Committed in 1865, 16 cases: Total 109: Prosecuted to conviction 10: Undetected at the end of 1865, 99: Arrested 15 persons: Convicted 9 (including one Kulloo in a case for 1864): Acquitted 4: Under trial 2: Lost Rs. 472: Recovered Rs. 155. (MEMO.—16 cases only in 1865, is evidently a mistake, for it is gainsaid by what has been above gathered from the Police Administration Report, and is further again gainsaid in Appendices I and II thereof.)</p> <p>The Police Administration Report for 1865, contains 2 Statements sent by the Deputy Inspectors General, 1st and 2nd Police Divisions, the details of which</p> |
| Total | 12 | 23 Districts, | 50 | |

19575

| Governments or Administrations. | Number of Districts in which no Cases were reported. | Number and Names of Districts in which Cases were reported. | Number of Cases. | |
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| NORTH WESTERN PROVINCES. | | | | <p>from their being mixed up with cases for former periods, do not admit of any approximation to the cases for the year under review (1865,) particularly as they shew no more than 16 cases for 1865 which is at variance with the number given as above shewn in the general Police Administration Report for that year. The substance of those Statements are included in the summary above quoted from the Inspector General of Police. It would seem, however, from them, that taking 16 as the number of cases which occurred in 1865, the persons concerned in them numbered 23, arrested 15, convicted 9, acquitted 1, pending 2. (MEMO. Two men implicated in cases for former periods, namely <i>Kulloo</i> in a case in Boolundshahur in 1864, and one <i>Heera</i> in a case in Bynour at some prior period, would seem to be mixed up in these details.)</p> <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL POLICE -- "Robberies by poison, I am glad to say, have very much decreased. The Police during the year have been successful in following up these cases, and several undoubted professional poisoners have been prosecuted to conviction."</p> <p>"<i>Thuggee</i> as a professional crime seems to have ceased under the operations of the Officers specially appointed for the supervision of this crime, and the admirable system of Approvers introduced by Colonel Sleeman. The votaries of the art doubtless found it too dangerous an amusement to be any longer pursued in British Territory with impunity, and it would appear to be succeeded by the more easily accomplished and less easily detected crime of robbery by poison."</p> <p>DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL 1st DIVISION. "<i>Thuggee</i>."--With the exception of a suspicious case at Etawah, there are no appearances of this crime being committed in this Division."</p> <p>The case here referred to at Etawah, would not seem to be anywhere else mentioned in the Police Administration Report. Thus with the case at Bustee (<i>quod vide</i>,) there would seem to have been two cases of <i>Thuggee</i> in the North Western Provinces in 1865, and 50 cases of robbery by administering poisons. It not being clear how many persons lost their lives in the latter cases, and the exact police action in each case unknown, nothing is here added on the subject, the particulars which were available, having been already recorded against the districts in which the crimes took place.</p> <p>(End of North Western Provinces for 1865.)</p> |
| ODISHA. | | <p>6 (1) Lucknow, (including City)</p> <p>(2) Durriabad,</p> <p>6 2 Districts,</p> | <p>4</p> <p>1</p> <p>5</p> | <p>Four cases, namely 3 in the City and 1 in the District.</p> <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL POLICE -- "Of murders (in the City) I regret to say, three were by poison;--in all these cases the Police made apprehensions. In one there was an acquittal, one conviction, and one remained under trial at the close of the year; these cases, as detailed by the City Superintendent in his Report, are interesting." (MEMO. The details were not received in this Office.)</p> <p>"Of 12 murders and attempts (in the Lucknow District,) one was by poison, in which the guilty parties were convicted."</p> <p>The following cases also occurred in the Lucknow district and were described with two other similar cases in Oonao, "to resemble the mysterious murders in Oonao of 1861 and 1862, the corpses as in the old Oonao murders, never being recognized" namely:</p> <p>SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE -- "On the morning of the 20th November the bodies of two workmen were found at the corner of a grove of trees about half a mile from the Police Outpost at Chillawan on the Lucknow and Cawnpore Road and half a mile off the road. The deceased met their deaths by strangulation and were possibly drugged previously, as no marks of a struggle can be found."</p> <p>"The <i>post mortem</i> examination showed that the men had died from strangulation, they having both previously received severe blows on the head, but no signs of drugging or poisoning were apparent. I believe they were first knocked down and then strangled. One of the men was strangled with a piece of his own Lotah rope which had been cut off for the purpose. The case precisely resembles another recent one in Oonao."</p> <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL POLICE -- "This case was one of peculiar atrocity. Two men, apparently grass cutters, were killed on a bye path leading from the Lucknow and Cawnpore Road, to the Cantonments about half a mile from the road. The murdered men must have partaken largely of liquor shortly before being attacked, as a large quantity was found in the stomach of each man, but no appearance of poison. There were severe blows on the head, leading to the supposition that they had first been knocked down, cords were tightly tied round the throats, and the noses of both were cut off;--the bodies being also otherwise mutilated. Every endeavour was made to unravel the crime, but without avail. * * * There can be little doubt of the fact, that in cases of murder, such as those now under comment, drugging has been first resorted to." (MEMO.--For more about these cases vide under Oonao.)</p> <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL POLICE -- "Of the ten murders, one was by poison." (MEMO --No account of this case was given.)</p> |

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| It. } ver } | 6 | 2 Districts, | 5 | <p>the cases are of 'Thuggee,' but not the work of old and practised hands. The nose of each victim was cut off and a knife or other sharp pointed instrument run into the left eye of each, while the younger of the two appeared to have had the same instrument run into the left temple a little above the ear. Close by in a bush, were found the remains of a certificate showing that in July 1864 one of the victims was in the service of a Mr J. H. Muden of the East India Railway, as a grass cutter, and a couple of horse towels were also found among the other things picked up in the bush."</p> <p>THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT TO INSPECTOR GENERAL POLICE -- "The Thug Approvers of this Department regard the noose which you sent to me, as certainly a contrivance for the destruction of life, but it is not an instrument such as any of their communities were in the habit of using-- except that Bandia Thugs were wont to employ for strangling purposes, the <i>lasso</i> with which <i>Brigand</i> entrap cattle to the present day."</p> <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL POLICE - "Of the murders, one is reported as by Thugs. I doubt if this case is properly entered. That the murdered man was strangled is true, but I do not think the work was that of professional Thugs. The case occurred in the Oomoo District close to the Lucknow and Cawnpore road. I went to the spot myself to investigate. The victim was I believe first knocked down and the rope then placed round his neck and life so extinguished." (Memo-- It seems that the Inspector General Police here alluded to case 2 of the above series, and not to case 3. The latter is, however, the case that might perhaps appropriately have been returned as a case of Thuggee, but upon the further information now obtained, the General Superintendent's impression is, that the three cases in Oomoo and the one in Lucknow, were equally cases of <i>Thuggee</i>, and the deed probably of one and the same Gang, but who by mutilation and other procedure, desired to create the idea that other persons than Thugs had perpetrated them. For more about these mysterious Oomoo cases, vide Colonel Harvey's letter in the Foreign Department, No. 566, dated 17th July 1861, paras. 15, 16 and 17, Selections XXXIV.)</p> |
| Oudh | | (3) Seetapore, | 1 | <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL POLICE - "In the cases of murder, one was by poison, but not for the sake of robbery." No account of the case was given.</p> |
| | | (4) Fyzabad, | 3 | <p>(1) 4th April 1865 -- "A case of robbery by administering poison occurred at the Ajoodum Fair. The victims were a family composing one man, two women and three children. The poison used in rendering the victims senseless, was 'Dhatona' which was put in the water which the family used for their drink. This water was supplied to them by a man who professed himself to be a Bannua. His whereabouts are unknown to the Police, but a man, resident of the Beornah Bhar Police Station jurisdiction, is supposed to be the perpetrator of this foul deed, and enquiries are accordingly being made in this case."</p> <p>(2) 18th April 1865 -- "A case of poisoning for the sake of robbery, occurred at Taroom, Bheekapoor Station. Two men (travellers) arrived at the House of one Surjoo Das resident of the above-mentioned village, he and a pupil of his, partook food with them, and soon after became insensible, the two fakers then robbed them of Rs. 1-12 worth of property and continued their journey towards Sooltanpore. They appeared to be among the numbers that were leaving the District after the Ajoodum Fair, and in all probability changed their costume immediately they left Bheekapoor. A mounted Constable was sent in pursuit of the criminals and other measures taken to secure their apprehension, but all efforts seemed fruitless. The victims mentioned some persons, residents of the District, on whom their suspicion fell, but the Police Officer who went most carefully into the case, did not trace any just cause to justify their apprehension, beyond that of there being some enmity between the accusers and the accused."</p> <p>(3) 19th May 1865 -- "The Chowkedar of Sarungapoor came to the Saddur and reported that a Fakcer had gone to a house in his village and had fed the inmates, and that shortly after eating something, the members of the house became ill, 2 died, a woman and a boy about 15 years' old. Gudyah, daughter of the deceased woman Tejnah Aheerwah, said that a man in the garb of a Fakcer visited her village at 5 o'clock in the evening, and asked her and Ramanund Thakoor, to accommodate him for the night. They replied, they were living in a jungle and could not accommodate him. The Fakcer then begged to be allowed to remain only for the night, as he would go away in the morning. At about 8 o'clock in the night he cooked some 'Peonies' and ate them, and then took out his idol 'Thakoorjee' and commenced worshipping it, and gave to the inmates of the house some of the offering which he had offered on the idol. It was composed of a mixture of cardamums, cloves and sugar, and was not more than a 'conry' in quantity. The persons who partook of the offering, were Ramanund Thakoor, Gudyah, Rampershaud a boy aged 15 years, Bakhtawur, Ramchurn and another boy aged 10 years, residents of Sarungapoor, and Dhoondhay Kulwar of Ghuzufabad. These parties all became insensible as soon as they had eaten of the offering. Of the parties thus poisoned, the woman Tejnah and Rampershaud died immediately. The scene of the crime is an isolated place. Ramanund said when he recovered his senses, that the Fakcer gave out his name as Rughonath Dass, by caste a Brahmin."</p> <p>MRMO.- The above cases were not alluded to in the Police Administration</p> |
| It. } or } | 6 | 4 Districts, | 9 | |

| Governments or Administrations. | Number of Districts in which no Cases were reported. | Number and Names of Districts in which Cases were reported. | Number of Cases. | REMARKS. |
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| Bt. } over } | 6 | 4 Districts, <i>2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100</i> | 9 | <p>Report but are taken from a Special Report. The first case would appear to have been committed by 3 persons who were apprehended in a case in Baraitch. The Fakeers who committed the second and third cases, were the criminals in another case in Baraitch, but where, as in case 3, one of them remained out of sight while the deed was being done.</p> <p>In a "Statement of cases of Thuggee" received from the Deputy Commissioner Fyzabad, another case was given, of occurrence at Bhuggia on the 10th April 1865, implicated 6 persons, arrested two. It was not stated whether it was another case of poisoning or one of strangulation, and as no account of it was given, it is not reckoned in the present Statement.</p> |
| Ordn. | | (5) Baraitch, | 2 | <p>These 2 cases escaped attention in the Police Administration Report and the following account of them is taken from a Special Report, viz:</p> <p>(1) 22nd May 1865.—"In the Syud Salar Fair, which takes place annually in the Baraitch District, a case of robbery with poison occurred. Dabeedeen and Sheonundun, Bunneahs, of Kunnoo in Sooltanpore, had come to the Fair with a stock of "Choories" (glass and lac armlets,) and two or three days previous to being poisoned, had made an acquaintance with one <i>Shibdeen Bunneah of Bhutgaon</i>, who brought them a seer of 'Atu' on the night in question, on eating which they became insensible. The effects of the dose thus administered in the food of the victims, was so strong that they could hardly articulate for two days, and it was only on the 24th, they had sufficiently recovered to give a clear account of what had occurred. * * * Mounted Constable Huzara Sing, apprehended two persons on the 24th May at Bram Ghat,—one of whom, Hameoan alias Sheodeen Bunneah of Mohulla Fattehgunj in Lucknow, answered to the description given of him, and the other man was one Sheocharn also a Bunneah, a fellow traveller. Their persons were searched and property found. There was also a third travelling companion, Gopal Bunneah, who was likewise apprehended. These three persons were sent up for trial and convicted." (MEMO.—They were sentenced each to 10 years' imprisonment. They were stated to have been the criminals in case 1 of Fyzabad <i>supra</i>.)</p> <p>(2) 19th June 1865.—"One Gopal tobaccoist, resident of Nepalgunge in Nepal, reported at the Police Station of Nanparah, that he had been robbed of Rs. 250 tied in a handkerchief about his waist, while on the way from Nepalgunge to Nanparah for the purpose of buying cloth,—that at the Babugunge Bazar near Churda, he met a man, name and residence unknown, dressed as a Fakeer with whom he got into conversation and travelled until he reached the village of Bisairi 1½ coss north of Nanparah and there they rested in a Garden. Plaintiff made some <i>sherbut</i> with some sugar which he shared with the Fakeer. Whereupon the Fakeer gave him some <i>Salttoo</i> which he ate. Plaintiff then slept for a time, and on awaking was asked by the Fakeer how he felt, he replied that <i>everything appeared green all round him</i>. They then started again towards Nanparah. Towards evening Plaintiff fell senseless from his <i>Tattoo</i>. The Fakeer then began to rob him of his money. Plaintiff tried to expostulate, but could neither speak nor struggle. The Fakeer who committed the above crime, has been traced to 'Jaispore' Bazar where he stopped for one night on his way to Nanparah with one Buldeodass Fakeer. His name is not known, but he is a follower of Girwar Dass Fakeer of Mullapoor in the Nepal Territories. It is further shewn that he was punished for theft in Nepal ten years ago, and had been branded with a piece on the forehead and temple. On the 20th June or a day after the commission of the crime, he was seen by Buldeo Dass Fakeer, returning to Nepal." (MEMO.—The Fakeer in this case had, it would seem, an associate in the background, and they both were the culprits in cases 2 and 3 of Fyzabad, <i>supra</i>.)</p> |
| Cd. } over } | 6 | 6 Districts, | 14 | <p>According to the Police Administration Report <i>there were only two cases</i>: "Two of the murder cases by poison, were also for the sake of robbery. They have not been detected. Certain men of a gang of poisoners arrested by me in September, were strongly suspected as the guilty parties, but sufficient evidence could not be procured for conviction or to send the men for trial."</p> <p>The following account of these two cases and of another, is taken from a Special Report, viz:</p> <p>(1) 6th May 1865.—"A case of robbery by administering intoxicating drugs occurred in the village of Pokhurnee, Mohungunge Station jurisdiction. The circumstances of the case are as follow, viz: One Bhowanee came to Bundah's house, and by giving out that he was a Gurruria, and a relation of the Plaintiff, he was allowed to stay there for the night. He said that he was fasting that day and would not eat anything. Subsequently on a favorable opportunity being afforded to him, he secretly put something poisonous into the food which the Plaintiff's son was cooking for himself, and on partaking which he was soon rendered insensible. The Plaintiff himself shared a like fate by means of something being administered in his <i>Hookka</i>. The poisoner having thus cleared the obstacles which he considered would stand in his way to success, by rendering the owners insensible, robbed them of property to the value of Rs. 5-9-0. When the victims recovered their senses, they named Bhowanee as the man who had robbed them after drugging, and on this clue he was apprehended by the Police, sent up</p> |

| Governments or Administrations. | Number of Districts in which no Cases were reported. | Number and Names of Districts in which Cases were reported. | Number of Cases. | REMARKS. |
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| Bt. (over) | 6 | 6 Districts, | 14 | <p>to the Magistrate and finally committed to the Sessions." (MEMO:—He was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment, whereupon he made certain revelations which the Inspector General Police considered threw light upon some of the <i>Oonao Mysterious Cases</i> noticed under that District. He named 12 persons as his accomplices, of whom 8 were arrested, and the Inspector General Police was sanguine of success in bringing some, if not all, to justice, but said that the investigation would require time and patience. The result of their investigation was not communicated to this Office but it is believed that they are the persons alluded to in the extract from the report of the Inspector General Police given above under this District, where it was said that sufficient evidence could not be procured against them.)</p> <p>(2) 30th May 1865.—A woman named Ruddeen reported at the Mohungunge Station, the murder of her brother Chandoo, a boy aged ten years, on the road to Jais for the sake of robbery. She was going along the road to Jais with her little brother where she met a <i>Bhoojwa</i> (one who sells parched grain,) whom she knew and who used to go to her house at Juddespore, but whose name she was unacquainted with. The "<i>Bhoojwa</i>" induced her brother to sit down at a well, and soon after procured something from the Jungle and caused them to drink which produced instant insensibility. Whilst they were in this delirious state, the <i>Bhoojwa</i> took away from the person of Ruddeen, a Necklace, a Nose-ring and some Cloth, valued in all Rs. 11-7-0. The boy, it was said, had strayed away somewhere in a state of insensibility, search was accordingly made for him, and his dead body was found near the well spoken of, there were only bones, but the body was recognized by the Mother from the Dhotee and other clothes upon it. (MEMO:—The culprit escaped detection.)</p> <p>(3) 23rd June 1865.—"Sewn Chowkeedar reported at the Moosafirkhana Station that a traveller had died from the hot winds. The Officer in charge of the Station who happened to be near the spot, took up the case, and found on enquiry that the man had been beyond all doubt poisoned, as a poor starving boy who was passing by, ate some of the Chupatties which were lying near the corpse, and became insensible. A Hindoo who was seen with the traveller was suspected from his confused manner and nervous state of mind, to be the culprit, but subsequent enquiry showed that the man in question was mistaken for the real defendant." (MEMO:—No one was eventually convicted in this case. It was reported by the Superintendent of Police to have seemed a real case of Thuggee and the third case of poisoning within a short time.</p> |
| Total | 6 | 6 Districts, | 14 | <p>Nine of these cases were attended with murder, viz.: 3 in Lucknow City, 1 in Lucknow District, 1 in Durrabad, 1 in Seetapore, 1 in Fyzabad, and 2 in Sooltanpoor, but the Returns do not admit of it being stated how many persons were killed in the 9 cases.</p> <p>In addition to the total number of 14 poisoning cases here shewn, the following extra cases have been noticed in the present Statement, viz.:</p> <p>Three cases in Oonao viz.: 2 of strangling and one of "murder," but whether by poison or by strangulation was not shewn (vide Oonao,) and 1 case in Fyzabad regarding which too, similar information was wanted (vide Fyzabad.) These 4 cases are exclusive of the 14 returned in the present Statement, and it will have been perceived that one of them (in Oonao) has been returned in the Police Administration Report as a case of Thuggee.</p> <p>POLICE ADMINISTRATION REPORT:—Murder by Thugs 1 case (viz.: in Oonao.)</p> <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL POLICE:—Poisoning:—"There has been a large increase in the number of cases of drugging for the sake of robbery. In 1864 there were only four of these cases, in 1865 the number rose to 15. The Police have dealt successfully with the crime. Out of the 15, apprehensions were made in 10, in 5 there were convictions, and 5 remained under trial at the close of the year. The cases occurred, 3 in Lucknow City, the City Police were most successful in making apprehensions and obtaining convictions in all; 5 cases occurred in Fyzabad, 5 in Sooltanpoor and 2 in Baraitch. The rest of the Province has been free from the Crime. Ten cases occurred in the adjoining Districts of Fyzabad and Sooltanpoor. From this I am led to believe that the poisoners have their head quarters in one or the other of those districts. The 3 men apprehended and convicted in the Baraitch cases, were residents of Lucknow. I confess that I am unable to give any decided opinion as to the cause of the increase in the crime; it does not appear to be the work of any one organized gang, as no connection can be traced between the parties arrested in the several cases. But from the manner in which the crimes have been committed, there can be no doubt but that the perpetrators are professionals; this perhaps, gives a more alarming feature to the matter, as it would lead to the supposition that there are several gangs,—but I trust that the detection that has followed the crime, and the remedial measures that have been adopted, will put a stop to it in this Province. It is perhaps possible that persons, who formerly lived by large gang Dacoities, finding that that mode of plunder was more dangerous, have turned to the more insidious one of Poison."</p> <p>The Police Administration Report gives 8 cases of murder by poison, but it will be seen that 9 is the number which has been elicited in the present Statement, the case of the "murder by Thugs" having been one of strangulation,—and in reference to the number above stated to have taken place in 1864, it will be seen that 8 cases were elicited in the Statement of this Office for that year.</p> |

| Governments or Administrations. | Number of Districts in which no Cases were reported. | Number and Names of Districts in which Cases were reported. | Number of Cases. | REMARKS. |
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| ODDH. | | | | <p>It will also be perceived from the summary above quoted from the Inspector General Police, that whereas 14 is the number of poisoning cases to be gleaned from the Police Administration Report for 1865, he has stated 15 to be the number, and that not only does the number of cases in the Districts enumerated by him, differ from the number in them exhibited in the present Statement, but that a case in Durrinbad and one in Sectapeor, have been omitted from his list of them. It is believed, however, that the 15 cases here referred to of "robbery by administering poisons," are additional to the 9 of "murder by poison,"—in which case the total number of cases of poisoning in Oudh in the year 1865 would swell up to twenty-four, and an enquiry has been directed to the Inspector General Police, whether those 15 cases include the murder cases, or are <i>exclusive</i> of them.</p> <p>Whether too, 15 cases complete the number of <i>any</i> case of robbery by poisoning in the Province, cannot be here stated,—for the Tables of the Report do not shew the Sections of the Indian Penal Code under which the crimes enumerated were investigated.</p> <p>According to Statement II, in 2 of the 8 cases of murder by poison no arrests were made, 11 persons were arrested in 6 cases, 1 person arrested in a case of a previous year, 2 persons remained under trial in 1 case at the end of the year, making a total of 14 persons arrested in 8 cases, 3 persons acquitted in 2 cases, 10 persons convicted in 5 cases, total 13 persons in 7 cases, and under trial at the close of the year 1 person in 1 case.</p> <p>And according to Appendix 12 of the Report, the following were the castes of 9 of the convicted parties, viz.: 2 <i>Brahmins</i>, 4 <i>Passes</i>, 2 <i>Kaiths</i> and 1 <i>Mahomedan</i>.</p> <p>In Statement I of the Report, only 8 cases appear under the heading of poison, and they were the murder cases,—all other poison cases viz.: the above 15 cases of robbery by poison and any more of such, would therefore have probably been included under cases of "Grievous hurt," or "Robbery with hurt," of the former of which that Table exhibited 117 and of the latter 12 cases in 1865.</p> <p>The Police action not having been uniformly stated in each case, no recapitulation thereof can be given in the present Statement, but the information on that point which was to be obtained from the Returns received in this Office, has been shown in the column of Remarks for each District.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(End of Oudh for 1865.)</p> |
| PUNJAB. | 13 | <p>(1) Umballah,</p> <p>(2) Delhi,</p> <p>(3) Goorgaon,</p> <p>(4) Kurnaul,</p> <p>(5) Hissar,</p> <p>(6) Rohtuck,</p> | <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>2</p> | <p>Convicted 4 persons. No details given.</p> <p>{ Convicted 1 person. (According to Appendix III of the Police Administration Report, the number of cases was 5.) No further details.</p> <p>{ Convicted 1 person. (According to Appendix III there was only 1 case) No further details.</p> <p>{ Convicted 3 persons. No details given. (The following case of Thuggee in this District, or something like Thuggee, would not seem to have been noticed in the Police Administration Report, viz.: A dead body was on the 16th January 1865, found under a tree about 50 paces off the road leading to Kothull. It was not known who the deceased was or whether he was robbed, but the string of his pyjamas was found twisted round about his neck, and his feet tied together with a <i>safa</i> or cloth.)</p> <p>{ INSPECTOR GENERAL POLICE:—"There have been three cases of administering poisonous drugs, and in one case the offender was convicted." No further details were given. (According to Appendix III, there was only <i>one</i> case)</p> <p>{ Convicted 1 person. No further details. The following is an account of one of the cases, viz.: COMMISSIONER:—"Two persons supposed to be Thugs, administered stupefying drugs to a Cartman and went off with his Cart." According to a special report made to this Office, this case took place on the 11th February 1865. Two persons hired the driver of the cart to take them some little distance, for a sum of two rupees. On the way they pulled up to smoke— and further on they again halted for the morning meal. They offered a <i>pooree</i> and some sugar to the Cartman, which he accepted and ate, and all then drove on. When arrived at Majra, the man began to feel unwell and so lay down in the cart which they drove on. A little further on the strangers pulled up the cart and unyoking the Bullocks, gave them some provender— which was all the man remembered. They did not tell him their names, but merely said they had come from Bhurtpore. They robbed his cart and bullocks. (MEMO.—This case is a counterpart of those committed by Hurpersad's Gang, for an account of whose proceedings vide General Superintendent's Report in the Foreign Department, No. 794, 15th September 1863—paras. XIX and XXIV.)</p> |
| Ed. } over } | 13 | 6 Districts, | 17 | |

| Governments or Administrations. | Number of Districts in which no Cases were reported. | Number and Names of Districts in which Cases were reported. | Number of Cases. | REMARKS. |
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| Bt. } over } | 13 | 6 Districts, | 17 | |
| | | (7) Lahore, | 2 | No conviction, no details. |
| | | | | <p>Convicted 4 persons. The following is taken from a Thuggee Statement received from the Commissioner of the Division, viz. :-</p> <p>1st Case : "At Gorindah, 23rd April 1865: arrested Jotee: Two men were poisoned by <i>Datoora</i> but recovered"</p> <p>2nd Case :—"At Wulla, 13th July 1865: Arrested Hakeo and Gopal Sing: A man named Goordit Sing was found dying a few yards from the village of Wulla. The Chemical Examiner found <i>Datoora</i> in his stomach. Hakeo a Brahmin who sits near a well at Wulla, and Gopal Sing a petty shopkeeper, were arrested and acquitted by the Sessions Court"</p> <p>3rd Case :—"Umritsur Serai, 29th September 1865: Arrested Bulwant Sing: He poisoned a man named Daviditta with <i>Datoora</i>, but the latter recovered."</p> <p>The following account of the 1st case is taken from Appendix A of the Police Administration Report:—On the 23rd April, two men were found lying senseless at a Well close to the Gorindah Station on the Grand Trunk Road 12 miles from Umritsur. The Civil Surgeon said they were poisoned by <i>Datoora</i>, and succeeded in bringing them round. They stated that they had come to Umritsur for work on the Railway. At a Serai near Umritsur they were joined by a one eyed person who gave his name as <i>Heera</i> a Kahar, and who recommended them to go with him to Lahore, where Coolies got higher wages. They went with him accordingly. On the road they brought some flour, the stranger purchasing some Dal, Sugar and Spices at the same shop. At midday they stopped at the Well above indicated, to cook their food. Heera sent one of them to draw some water and the other man to knead the flour at the Well, while he himself should prepare the dal. When the food was ready, he gave them some of the dal to eat, but he himself only partook of their flour cakes with some Goor or sugar. When presently the owners of the well also came there to rest, Heera proposed to his companions to move on, but they declined to do so till later in the day: whereupon he himself went on. They remembered nothing further till they returned to consciousness and found themselves in the Umritsur Hospital. The man Heera was traced by his one eye, and when he was arrested it was found that his true name was <i>Jotee</i> and that he had shortly before drugged another person in the Goordaspore District. Three other cases were also elicited against him, but it was not said where they occurred or when. He was sentenced for 4 years in the present case and was put upon his trial for the others also.</p> <p>The following further account of this man and of the result of his further trial, is taken from the Police Administration Report for 1866, viz. —"Jotee Kahar, a one-eyed man, the poisoner in one case, was apprehended solely by the fortunate circumstance that his absence from his general place of residence was discovered by the Assistant District Superintendent of Umritsur while testing our bad character rolls and to whom it occurred that perhaps Jotee had committed the crime, as he was a very bad character and had twice been convicted before, when Jotee did return he was at once arrested, placed among twelve one-eyed men, and recognized by his victims, who had recovered. For this offence he only received four years' imprisonment, but communications with other districts led to the discovery that he was the perpetrator of the similar offences in 1861 and 1862 in the Goordaspore district for which he received 14 years, so that at last, he has been incapacitated from pursuing his atrocious practices for 18 years to come"</p> <p>MEMO :—The case is returned as a "Murder by Thugs"</p> |
| | | (8) Umritsur, | 3 | |
| | | | | <p>DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL (Lieutenant Colonel MacAndrew) "One case of undoubted Thug poisoning is recorded, and I regret to say the criminal has as yet escaped detection."</p> <p>28th January 1865 :—A man calling himself <i>Moti</i> fell in with two <i>Jolahas</i> or <i>woggers</i>, who had set out in company with the village Chowkeedar in search of their wives who had been abducted from them. Moti offered to shew them where they were, and brought them to Hajjore, where he gave them some <i>Datoora</i> in their food. The Chowkeedar died, but the other two recovered. Moti escaped.</p> <p>MEMO :—This case is not identical with the one in Goordaspore which was above alluded to under Umritsur as the deed of the one-eyed Jotee. In that affair one person only was drugged, named Gusseeto, "shortly before" the offence at Gorindah in Umritsur, was committed :—i.e., shortly before 23rd April 1865—and according to this, the offences in Goordaspore should number two,—but as the actual date was not given, the number is preserved at one.</p> |
| | | (9) Goordaspore, | 1 | |
| | | (10) Jullunder, | 1 | This case is omitted from Appendix III of the Police Administration Report. It has not been described |
| | | (11) Hooshyarpoor, | 3 | Convicted two persons. No details given. |
| | | (12) Kangra, | 1 | Convicted 1 person. No details. |
| Ed. } over } | 13 | 12 Districts, | 28 | |

| Governments or Administrations. | Number of Districts in which no Cases were reported. | Number and Names of Districts in which Cases were reported. | Number of Cases. | REMARKS. |
|---------------------------------|--|---|------------------|---|
| Bt. } over } PUNJAB. | 13 | 12 Districts, | 28 | <p>No details.—A during case of kidnapping on the 15th June 1865, in which a Buniah was carried off from the Grand Trunk to Mnlka the well known abode of outlaws, who only returned after paying a heavy ransom, is included in the Thuggee Statement received in this Office, but it is not entered in the present Statement.</p> <p>Convicted 2 persons. No account of these cases was given.</p> <p>Convicted 1 person. No details.</p> <p>These cases included in Appendix I, are omitted from Appendix III of the Police Administration Report! No details are anywhere given.</p> <p>These cases are also not included in the detail of cases entered in Appendix III of the Police Administration Report. No account of them is given.</p> <p>Four persons were convicted. No account of these cases is given in the Police Administration Report.</p> <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL POLICE:—"The Deputy Commissioner while deploring a considerable increase of offences under the heading 'causing hurt,' points out how a gang of professional poisoners was successfully hunted up."</p> <p>This case is omitted from Appendix III of the Police Administration Report. No details are given.</p> <p>Convicted 25 persons. These cases are identical with the number and detail thereof given in Appendix I of the Police Administration Report,—but according to Appendix III they numbered no more than 38!</p> <p>MEMO.—In Appendix A of the Police Administration Report, it is stated (as already shown in the present Statement under Unritsur and Goordaspoor,) that the man <i>Jotee</i> taken up for a case in Unritsur of occurrence on the 23rd April 1865, had then recently committed another case in Goordaspoor, and that "three other cases of similar character had since turned up against him there." If these cases occurred in 1865, then the total of cases in that year would come up to 50!</p> <p>LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR:—"On the other hand, in those more heinous classes of crime, against property and person, which are ordinarily the work of organized and professional offenders, a satisfactory decrease is for the most part observable; the only marked exceptions being the cases of 'hurt by means of poisoning or stupefying drugs,' which the Lieutenant Governor perceives with regret, increased from 32 cases in 1864 to 46 cases in 1865; but His Honor also notes that the Police appear to have been more successful in dealing with these cases, as there were 25 convictions last year to 12 the year before." (MEMO.—It is thought that 12 convictions in 1864, is a mistake, the number of persons convicted in that year amounting, it would seem, to 28, and the number of cases to 36. Vide Statement for 1864)</p> <p>(End of Punjab for 1865.)</p> |
| | | (13) Rawul Pindee, . . | 3 | |
| | | (14) Goojrat, | 2 | |
| | | (15) Goojranwallah, . . | 1 | |
| | | (16) Sealkote, | 2 | |
| | | (17) Mooltan, | 2 | |
| | | (18) Peshawur, | 7 | |
| | | (19) Dera Ismael Khan, | 1 | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Total | 13 | 19 Districts, | 46 | |
| CENTRAL PROVINCES. | | | | |
| | 14 | (1) Dumoh, | 1 | <p>POLICE ADMINISTRATION REPORT:—"There was one case of administering stupefying drugs. The Defendant was arrested, but he was not a professional poisoner. The crime resulted from a family quarrel."—No further details were communicated.</p> <p>POLICE ADMINISTRATION REPORT:—"There were two cases of robbery after administering poisonous drugs. These were no doubt committed by professional poisoners. In both cases the Police failed. * * * There was also a case of administering poisonous drugs to an European employed on the Railway, by his servants. In this case the offenders were apprehended and convicted."</p> <p>The following account of these cases is taken from a Special Report to this Office, viz.:</p> <p>(1) 24th July 1865.—"Three men proceeding from Hyderabad, were joined by three others who mixed some drug in their food. They were insensible for three days, and on recovery reported the circumstance at the Schora Station House, but in the meantime the culprits had got clear away and were never traced."</p> <p>(2) 27th August 1865.—Mr. Upham, a Railway Inspector, engaged 4 servants at Jubbulpore, two of whom happened to be "<i>Gorundas</i> or sons of Thugs." They were with him for about 20 days, when Mr. Upham was found drugged with some Dhatoora which had been administered in his food. He had perceived the Cook (one of the "<i>Gorundas</i>") squeezing some juice from some green pods into his dinner whilst it was cooking, but did not then know it was <i>Datoora</i>. He had</p> |
| | | (2) Jubbulpore, | 3 | |
| Cd. } over } | 14 | 2 Districts, | 4 | |

| Governments or Administrations. | Number of Districts in which no Cases were reported. | Number and Names of Districts in which Cases were reported. | Number of Cases. | REMARKS. |
|---------------------------------|--|---|------------------|---|
| CENTRAL PROVINCES. | Bt. } over } | 14 2 Districts, | 4 | <p>before this seen them plucking these pods from a bush, but he supposed they were some kind of vegetable. On coming to himself he pointed out the bush to Dr. Spicer, the Railway Doctor, who was able promptly to attend him, and the latter at once recognized it as the <i>Datoora</i> plant. The symptoms too which he had displayed, were such as could be produced by <i>Datoora</i> only, and the motive for the servants administering it to him was to rob him when unconsciousness should have supervened. He however, had a kind of suspicion that all was not right and abstained from eating the food so prepared, taking only some rice and milk instead. Next morning he ate his <i>chota hazri</i> or early meal, intending to shew some of the pods to Dr. Spicer in order to ascertain what they were. After eating some <i>bacon</i> and drinking his tea, he mounted his Horse and rode towards Dr. Spicer's House, but lost all consciousness before he could reach it. (MEMO—In this case the <i>Khansuman</i>, <i>Kurream Buksh</i>, was sentenced to 6 years' imprisonment, the <i>syce</i> and <i>grasscutter</i> to 3 years' each, and the other servant (<i>Merun</i>) was acquitted. The first and last of these were the sons of Thug stranglers, deceased Approvers of the Thuggee and Dacoity Department.)</p> <p>(3) 16th December 1865—Three men travelling from Raepore to Ghazepore, were found lying insensible in a House at Gwari Ghat, one only slightly so, who soon recovered and then charged the Police with robbing them. However, on examination their property was found all correct, and this man, who was a <i>Peroohut</i>, was himself suspected, but nothing could be proved against him. The drug was administered in food made from flour and rice purchased at a <i>Bunnya's</i> shop at the spot.</p> <p>(3) POLICE ADMINISTRATION REPORT:—"In one murder and one robbery, in both of which the Police failed, the crimes were committed by professional Poisoners." No special reports of these cases were received in this Office.</p> <p>(4) POLICE ADMINISTRATION REPORT:—"In the case of attempt (at murder)—one of poisoning—but not by a professional—the Defendant was convicted."</p> |
| | Total | 14 4 Districts, | 7 | <p>According to the Police Administration Report the cases numbered 5 only, namely, one attended with murder and 4 otherwise. But the Report does not distinctly shew whether there were 5 cases, or 4 only.</p> <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL POLICE:—"Murder by Poison 1 case.—There were 4 cases of administering poisonous drugs for the sake of robbery— all, I believe, by professional poisoners. In one case the victim died, and in the other three they recovered. In all the Police were unsuccessful. It is remarkable that these cases occurred in the very districts in which such crimes would have been expected; viz., 2 in Nimar, which is the thoroughfare of the nomadic criminal tribes passing between Central India in the Deccan, and 2 in Jubbulpore." (MEMO.—It would seem from this that the Inspector General Police has omitted from the series, the cases in Dummoh and Bhundara and one of the Jubbulpore cases.)</p> <p>"I may mention in this place that as no case of Thuggee was reported or suspected to have occurred during the year, and as the number of cases of Dacoity has sensibly diminished, I believe I may confidently assert that up to the present time, no ill effects have been experienced from the abolition of the Thuggee and Dacoity Department in the Province." (MEMO. This remark has also been quoted under the Central Provinces in the Dacoity Statement for 1865 <i>quod vide</i>.)</p> <p>CHIEF COMMISSIONER:—"Passing briefly to details, Mr. Temple observes that, of murder, there was no case by Thugs, only one case by Dacoits, and only one by Poisoning. Considering the number of cases that used to occur, he regards the attainment of the above number as a happy result."</p> <p>(End of Central Provinces for 1865.)</p> |
| MADRAS. | NOT SPECIFIED. | NOT SPECIFIED. | NOT SPECIFIED. | <p>The Papers of Criminal Statistics for Madras for 1865, exhibit a list of 106 crimes of kinds, in none, however, of which the crime of <i>poisoning</i> is distinctly specified.</p> <p>They shew that there were 233 cases of murder, 192 of grievous hurt and 169 of hurt, which probably include some cases of administering poison, but no case thereof is specially shewn, whether in the Criminal Statistics, in the Administration Report, or in the Annual Report of the Administration of the Madras Presidency.</p> <p>As, however, among the Sections of the Indian Penal Code under which the cases of "grievous hurt" and "hurt" are lumped together, appear those particular sections (324, 325, 326 and 328) which refer to cases of hurt by means of poisons, it is to be concluded that the cases indicated, certainly do include some instances of that particular crime, but there are no means of deducing the actual number thereof from the Returns received in this Office.</p> <p>POLICE ADMINISTRATION REPORT:—"There was no case of Thuggee."</p> <p>(End of Madras for 1865.)</p> |

| Governments or Administrations. | Number of Districts in which no Cases were reported. | Number and Names of Districts in which Cases were reported. | Number of Cases. | REMARKS. |
|---------------------------------|--|---|------------------|--|
| BOMBAY. | 27 | INCLUDING DEPENDENT NATIVE STATES. | | |
| | | (1) Kaira, | 1 | { POLICE REPORT:—"Of the <i>nine</i> cases of murder committed for trial, the fourth is that of a girl of the village of Gujua, Talooka Boorsud, who died from the effects of Poison. In this case an accused was apprehended and committed to the Sessions and tried on two charges—viz.: 1st Murder and 2nd administering poison with intent to cause hurt, and was convicted on the 2nd charge and sentenced to 3 years' rigorous imprisonment." |
| | | (2) Khandesh, | 1 | { This case is obtained from the Crime Return for Khandesh in which it appears under Section 328 Indian Penal Code (causing hurt by means of poison &c.) but no detailed account of it was given.—Two persons were convicted of this offence. |
| | | (3) Poonah, (Including Sub Collectorate of Sholapoor.) | 1 | { This case occurred on the 5th August 1865 at Keim in the Kurmalla Talook.—A man assuming to be a Mahomedan traveller from Bombay, hired a pony at the village of Bholodee, and a man named Rowloo to attend it. Rowloo was observed by some passengers in the Railway a day or two subsequently, to be dancing about naked in a frantic state in a field close by—and at a subsequent date his dead body was discovered in the jungles of Keim. His death was caused by poison mixed in his food and he was robbed to the extent of Rs. 31-6-0. No traces could be gained of the Traveller or of the Pony. |
| | | (4) Ahmednuggur, | 1 | { This case took place at Pimpulgam on the 9th April 1865, and was returned in a Statement of Thuggee cases received as well from the local Magistrate as from the Commissioner of the Southern Division. It was described as an attempt to commit murder and that three persons were arrested for it, of whom two were sentenced to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment and the other was acquitted. The Statement did not specify whether this was a case of Thuggee by poison or by strangulation. |
| | | (5) Jagheer States of the Southern Mahratta Country, | 1 | { In a Statement of cases of Thuggee received from the Political Agent, this case is entered as of occurrence "in Koorundwar Pelt between the 4th and 14th March 1865. The Prisoner escaped and his name is unknown—no murder was committed." It was not specified whether this was a poisoning case or one of strangling. |
| Total | 27 | 5 Districts, | 5 | { These cases include two (viz., in Ahmednuggur and the Southern Mahratta Country,) of which it was not stated whether they were cases of poisoning or of strangulation,—and they comprise the only cases which can be gleaned from the Police Returns forwarded to this Office. It seems probable indeed, that some further cases of poisoning were included in the cases of crime investigated under Sections 324, 325 and 326 of the Indian Penal Code, of which there were several in the Crime Tables for the Districts comprising the Northern Police Division of Bombay, but in the absence of further information their number (if any) could not be ascertained. <i>No similar Crime Tables or Police Reports were received in this Office for the Districts composing the Southern Police Division.</i> (End of Bombay for 1865.) |
| MYSORE. | UNKNOWN. | UNKNOWN. | UNKNOWN. | { No Police Administration Report or Criminal Statistics have been received in this Office for Mysore, from which cases of the nature appertaining to the present Statement might be gathered. A Blank Return for Mysore and Coorg was received of cases of Thuggee properly so called. (End of Mysore for 1865.) |
| HYDRABAD ASSIGNED DISTRICTS. | NOT SPECIFIED. | NOT SPECIFIED. | NOT SPECIFIED. | { The Police Administration Report for the Hyderabad Assigned Districts, does not mention the occurrence of any cases of poisoning: it merely shows that no cases of murder by poison for plunder took place—but as it exhibits several cases of <i>hurt</i> and <i>grievous hurt</i> , by day and by night, on the highway and not on the highway, the Sections of the Indian Penal Code under which they were investigated, not being shewn, it is possible that some cases of <i>hurt by poison</i> may be included in them. The Inspector General Police sent a blank Return of "Cases of Thuggee" for the Province of Berar. (End of Hyderabad Assigned Districts for 1865.) |

GENL. SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE.

Delhi, 9th May, 1868.

CHAS. HERVEY, Colonel,
Genl. Supdt. of Operations for the Suppression
of Thuggee and Dacoity.

*Abstract Statement of reported Poisoning cases throughout British Territory in the year 1865,
as gathered from the several Police Administration Reports and other sources, viz. :*

| | | | |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| 1 | Bengal, | 22 | <div> <div> An Appendix to the present Statement gives a particular account of the special investigations conducted in Bengal in regard to the crime of poisoning, as extracted from the Police Administration Report. </div> <div> Memo —No uniform account having been given of the persons arrested, convicted, &c., of the number who died from the poison taken, or of other usual particulars, no detailed account of them can here be shewn, but some information thereof may be found under each distinct District. </div> </div> |
| 2 | North Western Provinces, .. | 50 | |
| 3 | Oudh, | 14 | |
| 4 | Punjab, | 46 | |
| 5 | Central Provinces,.. . . . | 7 | |
| 6 | Madras, | None specified. | |
| 7 | Bombay,.. . . . | 5 | |
| 8 | Mysore and Coorg, | Unknown. | |
| 9 | Hydrabad Assigned Districts, | None specified. | |
| Total reported cases excluding Three Administrations, .. | | 144 | <div> Eleven cases of murder or attempts to murder, by strangling, have been noticed in the present Statement for as much as they are worth, viz., 1 in Bengal, 2 in the North Western Provinces, 4 in Oudh, 2 in the Punjab and 2 in Bombay. The two latter were doubtful cases, i. e., whether attributable to poison or to strangulation. </div> |

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APPENDIX I

Accompanying Thuggee Statement for 1865, being Extract paras. 99 to 196 of the Police Administration Report for Bengal for the year 1865.

“As the records of these cases contain much interesting and useful information, I think it well to enter here into a rather detailed account of Mr. Reily’s proceedings.”

“Immediately on receipt of orders, Mr. Reily proceeded to Patna with the Special Inspector, Baboo Nobokisto Ghose, and six Constables. From his experience in dealing with crimes which are perpetrated by organized bodies, he was aware that it is only by means of confessions, or what is generally known as the ‘*approver system*,’ that he could hope to break up the gangs which evidently infested the Districts of Bhaugulpore, Monghyr and Patna.”

“At Patna he learnt that two men named *Lutchmun* and *Kooshroo* had been committed to the Sessions by the late Dacoity Commissioner of the Behar Division, Mr. Vincent, for administering drugs to travellers, and had been sentenced to ten years’ imprisonment by the Sessions Court in 1863. On examining the proceedings of the case, it was clear that these two men belonged to a *gang* of poisoners; and that their accomplices had escaped at the time they were arrested by the Police. He applied to the Commissioner of Patna for permission to see the prisoners, Lutchmun and Kooshroo. This he was permitted to do. These two men had fortunately been retained in the Jail at Patna, because they could weave towels and were useful in the jail manufactory.”

“He saw Lutchmun and Kooshroo in the presence of the Jailor; Kooshroo at once refused to give any information; but Lutchmun at first hesitated, and then made a full confession, giving up the names of his accomplices, and detailing several cases in which he had taken a part. Mr. Reily applied to the Magistrate to record the confession of the prisoner. This confession was taken on the 22nd April 1865.”

“Before acting on it he determined to test its truth. The men Lutchmun named as his accomplices were.* These men were found to be actually living in the places named by Lutchmun. Zalim was employed as a Chupprasee in the Bhaugulpore Collector’s Office, and on being arrested made a full confession. Bolie Bux had absconded to Oudh after Lutchmun’s arrest, and had there been arrested on a charge of being connected with a gang of poisoners in that Province. Jelum was arrested at Bhaugulpore, and in his evidence before the Magistrate corroborated Lutchmun’s statement to the effect that Zalim, Laljee, Soobratee and Bolie Bux wandered about the country ostensibly in company with two nautch girls; but that their real occupation was to drug travellers. Bundooah had been arrested in a case of poisoning, and had been sentenced to seven years’ transportation by the Sessions Court in the Khyrabad Division in Oudh, where he had gone with Laljee and Bolie Bux. The former was implicated in the same case, but had made his escape out of the hands of the Police. Choolie Mistr had been twice arrested on a charge of drugging a woman within the Monghyr Fort, and owed his escape to the way in which the proceedings were conducted in the Joint Magistrate’s Court. This Choolie Mistr had absconded from Monghyr and had enlisted as a Police Constable at Bhaugulpore, where he died only a week previous to Lutchmun’s confession. The above facts were corroborative of the truth of Lutchmun’s statement.”

“Not satisfied with this, Mr. Reily tested some of the cases mentioned in the confession by visiting the places named. The first case in which Lutchmun was engaged was one which he described as having occurred at *Kallee Ghat* near Calcutta. He stated that after worship-

- *1 Zalim.
- 2 Bolie Bux.
- 3 Jelum.
- 4 Bundooah.
- 5 Soobratee.
- 6 Choolie Mistr.
- 7 Seboo.
- 8 Laljee.

ping *Kallee*, the gang put up in the house of a Pundah, where three other travellers had also remained for the night. The travellers made preparations to cook their dinner; Lutchmun observed that Zalim, Laljee, Seboo and Soobratce whispered together. The travellers were cooking '*turkaree*' (vegetable curry). Zalim who had the bag with the '*booknee*,' or poison, went up to them with Laljee. The latter asked for some fire, and when the attention of the travellers was taken up in giving fire to Laljee, Zalim dexterously managed to throw a quantity of the powder into the pot in which the curry was cooking. The travellers partook of that curry with their rice. About 11 o'clock at night they began to wander in their minds. Upon this Zalim and Laljee led them into the hut, where the latter dropped down insensible. The others then helped themselves to all the travellers had; obtaining 150 Rupees in cash and other property."

"Mr. Reily went with Lutchmun to Kallee Ghaut,—the latter pointed out the house where the case had occurred. It was discovered that a Chowkeydar at Kallee Ghaut, recollected the circumstance. The drugged men, it appears, were found insensible in the morning and were reported as drunk. One of the men lived at Kidderpore, near the Bridge. On enquiring there, one *Jaddee*, an inhabitant of Furreedpore, was found, who stated that his brother, *Ugnoo*, had lived there about two and half years ago; that he had gone home *spitting blood* and died two months after his return. Ugnoo had stated at home that he and two others had been robbed at Kallee Ghaut of every thing they possessed. His brother had been ill ever since the night in question. A neighbour, Gungaram Halwic, stated that Ugnoo had lived there, and that he had heard him say he was robbed at Kallee Ghaut. Munna, another neighbour, told the same story, adding that Ugnoo had shortly after left for his home. If Ugnoo had been living he would probably have recognized Lutchmun and Zalim; but as he was dead it was useless to go further into the case. There is little doubt, however, that Ugnoo had died from the effects of the poison which had been administered to him at Kallee Ghaut; the companions of Ugnoo on that night were not discovered."

"Lutchmun further stated that after the Kallee Ghaut affairs they proceeded by rail to Raneegunge, and there alighted with a number of travellers who were going *West*, they joined these travellers and went with them till they came to a "*chuttee*" about five or six miles from Raneegunge. There the travellers cooked their dinner; Zalim and Laljee placed the *booknee* or powder in three bits of paper, and managed to throw these papers into the three pots in which the travellers were cooking their food. The travellers became insensible; when the gang helped themselves to the money that was tied round their waists, and went off on the *Buddeenathjee* road. Mr. Reily went with Lutchmun to the *Moodie's* shop, the scene of the occurrence, and found that the story told by him was quite true. Travellers had been drugged there and robbed; information had also been given to the Police, but it was impossible to trace the travellers owing to the imperfect record kept of the case."

"These two cases, and others which came out during the investigation, proved that on the whole Lutchmun's statements were to be depended upon."

"A case had occurred in the Patna District in which two Brahmins, named Rameshur and Nitnund, had been drugged at Bykutpore under rather peculiar circumstances. On the road to Patna they met two boys who offered them a silver bangle for sale, on the pretence that they had no money to proceed to Juggernaut. A little further on the road they met another traveller, who tested the bangle and valued it at Rupees 17. This traveller was anxious to purchase the bangle, but declared he had no ready cash, but as his house was close by he begged the two Brahmins to advance the money; this, after some hesitation, they did, as the traveller was a well dressed man, and they were to retain the bangle in their possession. After a while the traveller went into Burhea and never reappeared. The two Brahmins after waiting some time proceeded towards Bykutpore, and when near the "*chuttee*" two other travellers joined them. These men went with them to the Moodie's shop and purchased for them some rice and doll, &c. The Brahmins after eating the food became insensible, and when they recovered their senses they found the two travellers had fled with the bangle and every thing they possessed. The Police had

arrested Buglookar, of Burhea, as he had been identified by the two Brahmins as one of the men who had drugged them. The case was made over to the Detective Superintendent at this stage. It is well known that these poisoners generally hunt in *couples* with such of their *relatives* as they can *trust*. Bugloo was therefore casually asked for the names of his relatives. He gave the names of six members of his family."

"Mr. Reily went to Burhea with the Special Inspector and one of the Brahmins named Rameshur. The District Superintendent of Monghyr accompanied him. Tota Singh, one of the Zemindars of Burhea, whose '*nuffer*' or slave Bugloo was, was requested to produce the relatives named by Bugloo. With one exception, they were readily produced, and Rameshur declared that Bugloo's companion was not amongst them. The one exception was a man named Jebun, Bugloo's cousin and brother-in-law. Tota Sing declared he was not in the village. After a great many excuses, however, Jebun was produced; he was at once identified by Rameshur as the companion of Bugloo. The Moodie and his son also recognized Bugloo and Jebun as the men who had put up in their shop that night, and who could not be found in the morning when the two Brahmins were found insensible. On this evidence the Magistrate committed Bugloo and Jebun for trial to the Court of Sessions. The Sessions Judge of Bhagulpore after a lengthened trial acquitted both."

"The Judge noted in his judgement, *first*, that the description given to the Police by the men who had been drugged, of the men who were in their company when they became insensible, did not in all respects agree with the appearance of the poisoners; *second*, that the identification of Jebun at Burhea was not entirely satisfactory."

"With reference to the *first* point, it may be remarked that it is well known that persons suffering from the effects of *Duttoorah* do not regain full possession of their memory in the generality of instances for some days; and the description written down by the Police was recorded almost immediately after the men had partially regained consciousness; and it is possible that though conscious they had at that time no distinct and accurate recollection of the persons by whom they had been drugged. Further, as the description is in the usual stereotyped style of all Police Descriptive Rolls, it was probably supplied by the Officer who recorded it. To place, therefore, a description of such doubtful character in opposition to the *deliberate* evidence on oath of the Brahmins and that of the shop keeper and his son appeared somewhat strange, especially when these witnesses had no possible cause of enmity or spite against the prisoners."

"With reference to the *second* point it may be as well to quote the words of the Magistrate in his report to the Commissioner of the Division on this case, 'Mr. Reily in his deposition on oath detailed all the circumstances under which the identification at Burhea took place, and which, with all deference, I consider to be entirely satisfactory.'

"This is the first case. No conviction was obtained, but the Commissioner of the Division, in his letter No 36 of the 17th August 1865, states 'that after reading the papers carefully he comes to the conclusion that the Superintendent displayed great detective ability, and is entitled to high praise for the patience and skill with which he prosecuted his enquiries.' It is only necessary further to remark that the Patna prisoners, Lutchmun and Kushroo, are also residents of Burhea, and also '*golams*' of the same Zemindars. It is not to be denied that the Zemindars have never reported any of these cases, and from the manner in which Tota Sing endeavoured to protect Jebun, and the aid he afforded to Bugloo in this case, it is not stretching a point to believe that he is implicated with these poisoners, and that he protects the gang at Burhea. The Monghyr Police have been directed to keep a watch over Tota Sing and his '*golams*,' Bugloo, Jebun and others of the gang in that notorious village.

"On his arrest by the Special Inspector, Zalim confessed two cases of poisoning; one

at Sumbarsah in the Monghyr District, which Lutchmun had already mentioned ; and another in which a fruit-seller had been drugged at Peer-Pointee. He named in his confessions others, who had either joined the gang after Lutchmun's arrest, or who had belonged to it unknown to Lutchmun. These men are named in the margin."

1. Mooscedhun.
2. Tohee Gooree.
3. Khadoo Hajam.
4. Soodin Gooree.
5. Soodin Bahdar.
6. Nottroo Querie.
7. Ka-hee Dosad.

"At this stage of proceedings Mr. Reily was startled on the morning of the 30th April by hearing that *three* men had been poisoned at Bahir Chowkey within a few miles of the Monghyr Fort, and that two of them had died from the effect of the poison."

"On the 29th of April the Police sent in *three* travellers in a cart whom they had found lying insensible at Bahir Chowkey. One of them had died on the road ; the other two reached the hospital, one in a state of coma and the other delirious. The first died shortly after his arrival. The two men who died were *Sonars*, or Goldsmiths, and had died evidently suffering much pain ; the skin on their backs, shoulders, and elbows had been rubbed off by rolling on the ground in their agony. This must have occurred before they became insensible, and were found by the Police. The third man, *Ramchirretto*, recovered and stated before the Magistrate that he had come from Purneah and was on his way home to Arrah. That on the morning of the 28th of April he reached Madawah. There he met five Rajpoots, the two *Sonars*, and two *Koormees* ; they travelled together. In the afternoon the Rajpoots remained behind, as one of them fell ill. The two *Sonars* and the two *Koormees* came on with him to Bahir Chowkey ; they put up there for the night and made preparation for dinner. It was too late to cook, they therefore made '*muknees*' (that is hand-bread with spiced *suttoo* inside.) The flour was purchased at the Moodie's shop, but the *suttoo* was supplied by the *Koormees*. The two *Sonars* ate together. *Ramchirretto* being a Brahmin ate by himself, and the *Koormees* by themselves. He observed that the *Sonars* had eaten the *whole* of the *muknees* they had prepared. He himself had eaten only half of what he had prepared, as he thought they had a disagreeable taste. After a while he felt giddy and found his memory failing. One of the *Koormees* tried to lead him to the spot where the *Sonars* were lying, but he escaped from his clutches and recollects that he staggered on and fell down senseless. He stated that he believed he and the *Sonars* had been poisoned by means of the *suttoo* given to them by the two *Koormees*. He described the two *Koormees*, one as taller than the other. Both dark, and the short man about 40 years of age.

"The first step was to intercept the five Rajpoots, and, if possible, the two *Koormees*. The Detective Constable, Oodun Sing, with some Police from Monghyr, was sent with *Ramchirretto* by rail to Patna, with instructions to *walk* back on the Patna road. As anticipated they met the five Rajpoots who were brought into Monghyr. One of them, *Bissessur*, had spoken to the *Koormees* and declared he could recognise them if he met them again.

"The men that had been arrested on Zalim's confession now came into use. On reading to them the description given of the two *Koormees* by *Ramchirretto*, one of them, *Nutthoo*, declared that the description suited Soodin Bahdar, Beharee Bahdar, and Bhyrub and Hurree *Sonars*. The Magistrate of Monghyr noted down this statement of *Nutthoo's*."

"The Special Inspector was deputed to Bhaugulpore with *Ramchirretto* to arrest these men. He found that Beharee had just returned to his house. The moment *Ramchirretto* saw him at a distance, he declared that he was one of the two *Koormees*. Beharee finding himself recognized and charged with the murder of the two *Sonars*, confessed ; and was at once taken before the Magistrate of Bhaugulpore, who recorded his confession on that very day, *viz.*, the 18th of May 1865. In his confession he implicated his uncle, Soodin. On his being brought to Monghyr he was recognized by *Bissessur*. His confession corroborated the story told by *Ramchirretto*. Beharee stated that Soodin had mixed the poison with '*suttoo*.'"

"The Special Inspector now turned his attention to arrest Soodin. It appears that he was arrested by Torab Sing, Head Constable of the Bhaugulpore Police, who, on receipt of a bribe of Rs. 40 let him go. The charge was proved, and the Constable was sentenced by the

Magistrate of Bhaugulpore to six months' imprisonment. It was then ascertained that Soodin had started for the Nepaul Frontier with his wife and children. Two detective Constables were sent after him. They had never seen Soodin before, and the difficulty was to identify him. On arriving at a place called *Rottere*, they learnt that a traveller named Soodin, with a woman and two children, had put up there for two days. They induced the man in whose house the traveller had put up to follow them. They overtook the travellers three days after leaving *Rottere*, and the man pointed out Soodin. He was at once arrested, and on being charged with murder and with absconding from Bhaugulpore, he acknowledged that he was Soodin; but declared it was Beharee who had poisoned the travellers at Bahir Chowkey. On his being brought to Monghyr he was identified by both Ramchirretto and Bissessur. On being taken before the Magistrate of Monghyr he confessed that he and Beharee were the culprits; but that Beharee had mixed poison with the *suttoo*; he also confessed to two other cases of poisoning."

"The District Superintendent of Monghyr was then requested to collect as many of the men as he could who had been drugged within the last twelve months. Amongst these was Kenoo Joolah, who was taken to the Magistrate's Hajut and out of about forty prisoners, picked Beharee and Soodin, as the two men who had drugged and robbed him in September last on the road between Bhaugulpore and Monghyr. His previous description of the prisoners to the Police also tallied with the appearance of Soodin and Beharee. The prisoners were further identified by two other victims, *viz.*, Rajub and Monohur Sing in the same manner."

"On the evidence being laid before the Magistrate of Monghyr he committed Soodin and Beharee for trial to the Court of Sessions on a charge of murder. The prisoners were tried before the Session Judge and were sentenced to capital punishment. The case was heard in the High Court on the 18th July 1865. The Judges recorded that, 'a severe sentence was imperatively called for, in order to check, if possible, the spread of a crime so fatal to society and so difficult of detection. We therefore confirm the sentence of death passed on both the prisoners.' The Judges further added that, 'in our opinion the Detective Superintendent, Mr. Reily, deserves great credit for the manner he has dealt with this case, and 'for the complete chain of evidence which he has obtained under circumstances of so much 'difficulty.'"

"The prisoner Beharee, after his arrest, stated that Rajbullub and Gource Dosad were the companions of Soodin in his poisoning expeditions. On enquiry it was found that these two men had previously been charged with drugging travellers. The District Superintendent of Bhaugulpore was asked to arrest these men. On the 15th June 1865 the Inspector of Bhaugulpore brought Rajbullub to Monghyr. He was identified at once by Beharee, Nattoo, and Zalim, and on that very day he confessed before the Magistrate of Monghyr, giving the details of twelve cases of poisoning travellers in which he had been concerned."

"Amongst them he mentioned that Gurboo, Dwarka, Bisnee, and himself met two travellers at Madobah Bazar in October 1864; that Gurboo joined them, and after a bath purchased some *suttoo* which he offered to the travellers. The *suttoo* contained poison. The travellers after partaking of the *suttoo* went towards Barcarepore, and when, within a mile of the Railway Station they fell and became insensible. Gurboo took from them a tin flask containing *utter* of kewrah and some money, which was divided amongst them.

"As this case had only occurred seven or eight months ago, application was made to the District Superintendent of Monghyr to know if any travellers had been drugged at Barcarepore in October last. He sent the special reports relating to two dead bodies which had been found near Barcarepore on the 10th October 1864. The bodies had been examined by the Civil Surgeon, who stated that the deceased had died of poison. Two Bengalee receipts of the Collector of Tolls on the Bhagirutty River at Santipore had been found on the bodies. By means of these papers the Police had ascertained that the travellers had left one Domun

Manjie's boat, and were on their way to Ghazee-pore with a tin flask of *utter* of kewrah. A reward had been offered, but no clue was then obtained."

"Rajbullub's confession was thus corroborated by the Police records. It was then determined to search Gurboo's house, and the Detective Inspector was deputed to do so. This Officer on the 17th of June searched Gurboo's house in Kumurgunge in the presence of his father, Sooklal, the Zemindar of the village, and other residents. A tin flask with some *utter* of kewrah still in it was found by one Poraish in a small room, in which dried cakes of cowdung were stacked, concealed in the cakes. The Detective Inspector traced Gurboo to Bhaugulpore, where he was arrested on the 18th of June. Dwarka was arrested at Monghyr on the 21st of June, and Bisnee was traced to Shurkundah in the Rajmehal District, by a Detective Constable, who arrested him on the 9th August and took him to Monghyr on the 10th. He was taken before the Magistrate to whom he confessed that he had been concerned in several poisoning cases, and among others in this case, confirming Rajbullub's story in every particular. The Magistrate took him at once to the jail where he singled out Gurboo and Dwarka from a large number of prisoners."

"The District Superintendent of Jounpore was applied to and requested to send in Domun Manjee, in whose boat it appeared the two travellers had come, and the District Superintendent of Ghazee-pore was requested to send in Madaree Bux, the Merchant who had hired the boat of Domun Manjee. From the evidence of these two men it appeared that Madaree Bux, who is a scent Merchant at Ghazee-pore, had dispatched Domun Manjie's boat laden with rose-water in charge of Booka to his agent, Noor Allie, in Calcutta, where the boat arrived in August. Noor Allie dispatched it on the 10th September 1864 to Ghazee-pore with a freight of empty bottles and kewrah water. Booka, it was intended should go by *land* with a tin flask of kewra *utter*; but having been taken ill in Calcutta, he went up the river in the boat and left it a few miles above Bhaugulpore, accompanied by his cousin, Kurreembux, intending to proceed by land, taking with them the tin flask of kewrah *utter*, and the two toll receipts. Domun Manjee in charge of the boat reached Ghazee-pore with the freight, and there discovered that Bekoo and Kurreembux had not arrived. It was also ascertained that they had not since been heard of. The attendance of Noor Allie with his account books was procured. He shewed from his books that he had purchased on the 10th September 50 Rupees worth of kewrah *utter*, and had dispatched the same in a tin flask in charge of Bekoo. He identified the tin flask, which was also recognized by Domun Manjee."

"The Magistrate took Rajbullub and Bisnee *separately* to point out the place where they had left the two travellers after robbing them. The Magistrate has recorded that they each pointed out the *same identical spot*. It was proved from the evidence of the Police that the two dead bodies were found on the 10th of October in *that spot*."

"The whole of this evidence was laid before the Magistrate who made Rajbullub and Bisnee witnesses for the Crown, under Section 209 of Act XXV. of 1861, and committed Gurboo and Dwarka for trial to the Court of Sessions on a charge of murder."

"The prisoners were tried before the Sessions Judge, who, on the 20th of September 1865, sentenced Gurboo to capital punishment, and Dwarka to transportation for life. The finding of the tin flask on Gurboo was considered strong corroboration of the approver's evidence; and sufficiently indicating that Gurboo, as alleged by the witnesses, was the *chief agent* in the destruction of these unfortunate travellers. The case was heard before the High Court on the 25th of January 1865, when the sentence of death passed on Gurboo was confirmed, and further evidence was called for with regard to Dwarka."

"From the confession of Rajbullub it appeared that there is a gang of poisoners at Colgong, near Bhaugulpore; and that on one occasion Bhoodoo, Phooloo, Nuncoo, Mahir, Hurree Sing, and Talah Chowkeydar and Phoodoo had murdered *three men* on the Darjeeling road at Shawraguddy, and that part of the property belonging to these men was still in the possession of Hurree and Mahir. On searching the house of Mahir a Nepaul instrument called '*Phulsee*'

was found. On this Mahir, Hurree, and Talah were arrested; and they confessed before the Magistrate not only to the Shawraguddy murders, but also to one near Colgong."

"They stated that the gang in May last went out on a poisoning expedition under the pretence of going out hunting. Whilst returning they met a traveller at Ramzanipore. This traveller rested under a tree, and having taken out some suttoo left it for a few minutes in order to fetch water from a well close by. Boodoo took some powder, wrapped in paper, from his pouch and gave it to Phooloo, who mixed it with the suttoo. The traveller returned, partook of the suttoo, and walked on, the gang walking behind him. After proceeding about two miles, the traveller fell and became insensible; when Bhoodoo robbed him of some property and 24 Rupees which was divided among the gang. The traveller died where he fell. The Chowkeydar of the village Jangoo was in league with the gang, and being a relative of Tola Chowkeydar disposed of the dead body by inducing some Mahomedan *Dhobe*s who lived near the spot to bury the body, telling them that the traveller was of the Dhobee caste. The body was buried near the tree where the traveller fell; it was not buried in the usual burial place of the village. The three confessing prisoners took the Detective Inspector to the spot where the body was buried. On excavating the place a skull and skeleton were discovered."

"In this case there were three confessions supported by the evidence of the Dhobees. There was the evidence of several witnesses to prove that the prisoners had gone out together on a shooting expedition, and there was the finding of the skull and skeleton. The Magistrate made Mahir Queen's evidence and committed Hurree and Tola Chowkeydar for trial to the Sessions, where, on the 13th of January 1866, they were sentenced to transportation for life. This sentence was confirmed by the High Court on the 14th April 1866. The Judge directed the Magistrate also to commit for trial Phooloo, Bhoodoo and Munkoo."

"It further appeared from the confession of Rajbullub that about three years ago Sookreen, Mahir, Phooloo, Tola Chowkeydar, Koonjul, and Juggomohun went on a poisoning expedition with Hurree Sing to Purneah. They were unsuccessful while going to that place, but when returning they met at Shawraguddy three travellers returning from Darjeeling, who were on their way to Dinapore. Rajbullub stated as follows: ●

"We joined these travellers, and, after going some distance with them, Hurree Sing proposed that we should get some refreshment. We then went to the Bazaar and brought two annas worth of sweetmeats and some *sukur* or sugar. After bathing, we gave some of the sweetmeats to the travellers, and, having prepared two lotahs of shurbut with the sukur, into one lotah we put poison, and handed it to the travellers, while in the one we kept, there was no poison. The travellers drank the shurbut, and we altogether started on our journey. About a mile from the Bazaar the travellers fell down senseless close to each other. Hurree Sing said, 'separate, it will not do for so many of us to be seen together.' Sookreen, Juggomohun, Koonjul and I went on ahead about three or four hundred yards, and sat under a tree. After about an hour Phooloo, Mahir, Hurree Sing and Tola Chowkeydar came up to us saying 'we have brought all they had,' and they shewed us about 30 or 40 Rupees. They also brought a *phulsa* and a Nepaul *bhoojalee* and a *thal* and lotah. They said 'the men are dead.' The money was divided between us. One of the travellers was a *Dosad*, one a *Chummar*, and the third a *Goolah*. We had learnt from them that they were returning from Darjeeling, where they had followed some Sepoys, and were on their way to Dinapore. Hurree Sing took the phulsa and the bhoojalee. The former he gave to Mahir."

"On the arrest of Sookreen, he made a confession corroborating that of Rajbullub in every particular. On the arrest of Mahir, Hurree Sing, Tola Chowkeydar, and Phooloo, they each made a similar confession before the Magistrates of Monghyr and Bhagulpoore. Juggomohun and Koonjul have not been arrested. As far as could be learnt, the former had been imprisoned in a case of poisoning, and the latter was reported to be dead. Hurree and Tola Chowkeydar were sentenced to transportation in the Colgong case, in which Mahir was

made Queen's evidence. Rajbullub was made Queen's evidence in the *utter* case at Burcarepore, and Sookreen in another case of murder; there remained only Phoodoo, who was committed for trial to the Court of Sessions by the Magistrate of Bhaugulpore. The case was tried by the Sessions Judge of that District, and Phoodoo was sentenced to transportation for life on the 19th of March 1866."

"Nothoo as already mentioned confessed to several cases of poisoning. Most of these cases were tested by the Special Inspector and were found to be correct; but in several the sufferers, unfortunately, could not be traced, having either died or gone to their houses in distant parts of the country."

"In one case which occurred a few months previous at Godie on the line of rail, Nothoo mentioned that he and Mooseedeen, (since dead) Sunkur Dosad, and Bance Danook had drugged a Modee. He was taken to Godie and pointed out Kanie Moodee's shop. On enquiring it was ascertained that Kanie Moodee had been drugged, and his neighbours stated that they recollected the circumstance well. Kanie, on seeing Nothoo, Sunkur and Bance, identified them before the Magistrate of Monghyr; picking them out of twenty or thirty people, among whom the prisoners had been purposely placed."

The Godie case.

"It appears that the prisoners had failed one day in April 1865, while out on a poisoning expedition, to find any victims, and they determined to drug the Modee who was reported to be rich. Sunkur accordingly dressed himself as a '*Gosain*,' or priest, and Mooseedeen, Nothoo, and Bance represented themselves as his *chala*, or disciples. They sat themselves down before the shop. Sunkur began to act the priest, muttered munturs, performed poojah, and passed on the '*pershad*,' or offering, to his pretended disciples, who kept the same in their hands as they knew it was drugged. They then offered a portion of their offering to Kanie Modee, who at first refused to eat it, but being told it was '*pershad*,' he ate it. The result was, as usual, gradual insensibility preceded by delirium. Kanie as stated by his neighbours, who were examined as witnesses in the case, rolled on the ground in agony, and after his recovery told them how he had been poisoned. On seeing him in this state, his neighbours went to his shop and, as his sickness had attracted notice, the pretended priest and his disciples decamped without having an opportunity of robbing the Modee. In this case Nothoo's confession was corroborated by Kanie, who clearly and satisfactorily identified the prisoners, and who, according to the defence of the prisoners, had never known them before, and consequently could have no ill will or spite against them. The Magistrate committed Sunkur Dosad and Bance Danook for trial before the Court of Sessions. They were tried before the Judge of Bhaugulpore and sentenced on the 6th of January 1866 to ten years' transportation. The prisoners appealed to the High Court, where the sentence was confirmed on the 4th of April 1866."

"All the enquiries into these cases of poisoning confirm the fact that drugging was introduced into the Bhaugulpore and Patna Districts by *Hurree Sonar* and *Bhyrub Sonar*, who had learnt the art from some men who came from Oudh. Every effort, therefore, was made to arrest Bhyrub and Hurree. Bhyrub has not been found to this day, but after some difficulty Hurree Sonar was arrested. On his being arrested, he admitted that he was the '*Ostad*' or Master of all the poisoners in the District. He, however, before the Magistrate of Monghyr, confessed to only three cases of poisoning. In two cases, no trace of the victims mentioned by him could be found; but in the third case, which occurred at Suffeabad near Monghyr,

The Suffeabad Case.

the travellers who were drugged had been sent to the charity hospital, where they had been under medical treatment for several days, and where their names, *Jetoo* and *Baljit* were entered in the Register. In the Police investigation which had been held at the time the residence of the travellers was mentioned. After some difficulty they were traced and sent in by the District Superintendent of Gya. On their arrival at Monghyr, they in the presence of the Magistrate, both identified *Hurree Sonar*, and Hurree, himself, admitted that these were the men whom he had drugged. The Magistrate committed the prisoner for trial to the

Court of Sessions on his own confession, corroborated by the testimony of his victims. The entries in the Register of the charity hospital and the record of the Police investigation proving that these men had been drugged. The Moodce also in whose shop the drugging occurred identified the travellers, and proved that they had been drugged by a man who had decamped. The prisoner was tried by the Sessions Judge of Bhaugulpore, who on the 29th of January sentenced him to ten year's transportation. On the appeal of the prisoner, the case was heard before the High Court, where the sentence passed by the Sessions Judge was confirmed on the 28th March 1865."

"Nothoo in his confession named Phoolchand and fourteen other persons as belonging to the gang; and, from enquiries made by the Special Inspector in the village of Kotgar, it was proved that Nothoo's statement was correct, and that these men formed a gang of professional poisoners. A warrant was obtained for their apprehension. Phoolchand was captured by the Detective Constables on the 2nd July 1865 in his own house at Kutwalee (a village about eighteen miles from Bhaugulpore) to which he had recently removed. He was taken at once before the Magistrate of Monghyr, where on the 3rd of July he confessed to several cases of poisoning; among others to the murder of a *Jawan* Priest."

"Phoolchand stated that, Gopaul, who was a servant in the temple, had conspired with Juggernauth Sing, and with Chutterdharee Sing, who was the captain of the gang of poisoners,

The Murder of a Priest in the Phadooka Temple at Bhaugulpore.

and through whom the services of Mooseedeen (since dead,) Sunkur, Bance Tetaree, Rama Tetaree, and Bluttoo Tetaree, (three brothers,) Kallee Dhanuck, Phoojee Hajam, and Phoolchand were secured. They planned to rob the priest named Bodur Mull, whom Gopaul knew was wealthy. About three or four years ago, one evening in October during the Doorgah Poojah on the occasion of the '*tamasha*' of the '*Bharat Melae*' he met by appointment the prisoners Gopaul Sing and Juggernauth Singh. The former told him that Chutterdharee Sing, Mooseedeen and others of the gang had come as agreed upon to make an offering in the temple called Padooka. They brought two rupees worth of sweetmeats, which they divided into four portions and put each portion into a '*dongah*' (a basket of leaves,) they then went into a mangoe tope where Gopaul mixed some *booknee*, or powder, with the sweetmeats which were in one '*dongah*,' Gopaul and Juggernauth went into the temple and Phoolchand went with them. Then Gopaul gave the '*dongah*' with the powder in it to Chutterdharee to offer to the idol. The priest took the '*dongah*' and did so. After having thus offered it, he took it up, as is the custom, and began to divide it with the prisoners Chutterdharee, Gopaul, and Juggernauth. They prevented this, saying 'we have three other '*dongahs*' we will eat of them, and you and the servants of the temple divide this between you.' The priest then ate part of the *dongah* and left a part. Gopaul and Chutterdharee divided the three *dongahs* amongst those present, and sent part through Juggernauth to the witness Edoo, the driver of their carriage, who, being a Mahomedan, had remained outside. This took place about 7 o'clock, and about 9 o'clock the priest became insensible. Then Chutterdharee and Gopaul and the gang agreed to kill the priest. Gopaul Singh squeezed his throat, Sunkur rode on his chest, Juggernauth held his hands and Mooseedeen squeezed his private parts with his feet. The priest trembled convulsively and died. On this, Chutterdharee, Gopaul and Juggernauth went into the inner room of the temple and took out four sacks, each about a cubit long, and gave one to Phoolchand to place in the carriage; it was heavy and had the ring of metal when thrown on the cart. Three other sacks were also placed in the carriage by Gopaul, Chutterdharee and Juggernauth. It was then agreed that Mooseedeen, Sunkur Bluttoo and Bance should bring out the body. They took it out by the western door and proceeded north. The others yoked the oxen to the carriage. Gopaul, Chutterdharee and Juggernauth went in this carriage with the driver Edoo; while Phoolchand, Rama, Kallee Dhanuck and Phoodoo followed. They went as far as the Shah Jehangir Tank, when Chutterdharee told them to stop and wait till the rest came up. On the arrival of the four, Chutterdharee asked Mooseedeen what they had done with the body? Mooseedeen said, they had thrown it in a well at Nussurkhancee. They then got into the carriage and all went to Chutterdharee's house, where they took out

the bags. Phoolchand received his share of the booty. Gopaul was a friend of the priest and used to write in the temple. Gopaul and Chutterdharee are '*sirdars*.'

"After hearing this confession it was necessary first to secure Edoo, who was described in it as the driver of the carriage. If he confirmed Phoolchand's strange story it was determined to go into the case. The Detective Inspector was deputed to search for Edoo. He was found after some trouble, and on being taken before the Magistrate of Monghyr made the following statement :—

"Three or four years ago, about October 1861, I was a servant of Chutterdharee Sing. One evening my master told me to get the carriage ready. My master, Gopaul and Juggernaut Sing went in the carriage. On approaching the Shah Jehangir Tank we met Phoodoo, Kalee, Rama, Bance, Sunkur, and Moosecedeen. The men in the carriage told us to follow. We went to Padooka temple, Chutterdharee said, 'unyoke the oxen, I am going to make an offering to the Thakoor.' All the men went inside; shortly after Gopaul and Juggernaut came out and went towards the Nauthmugger Bazaar. They returned with *dongahs* in their hands. Phoolchand came with them; all three went into the temple. About 8 o'clock Juggernaut came out and gave me some sweetmeats. About 10 o'clock Chutterdharee, Gopaul and Juggernaut brought each a bag and placed them in the carriage. I was engaged in yoking the oxen, when I saw Moosecedeen, Sunkur, Bluttoo, and Bance go by with a body and take it northwards. I saw it was the priest's body, the hands were hanging down. Chutterdharee said, 'drive quickly.' When we got near the Shah Jehangir tank, Chutterdharee said 'stop the carriage.' Soon after Sunkur, Moosecedeen, Bance, and Bluttoo came up, Chutterdharee asked Moosecedeen where he had put the body, he said he had thrown it into the Musserkhanee well. The carriage was driven to Chutterdharee's house, when all went in. I did not know at first the business on which they went, I never told any one, as Chutterdharee is my master and he told me not to tell any one. I am a poor man. I remained by the carriage all the time. Some one did ask me whose carriage it was, I answered that Chutterdharee and Gopaul Sing had come in it."

"After this confirmation of Phoolchand's story, there was no doubt that a foul and deliberate murder had been committed; and as the witness stated that the Padooka was a temple near Bhaugulpore, the Magistrate was addressed to know if any such case had occurred, and, if so, to send the record relating to it."

"The Magistrate sent a file of papers relating to a case in which two men had been committed to the Sessions on a charge of murdering the priest Bhodur Mull. The record shewed that early in the morning of the 19th October 1861, two of the servants of the temple, Agoonee and Mahaboob, were found reeling about in the exterior court-yard of the temple seemingly intoxicated from drugs; and the priest was nowhere to be found. On the 21st of October his body was discovered by chance in a dry well half filled with earth close by a mangoe tope about half a mile from the temple, and near the house of Mahaboob and Agoonee. The body of the priest was naked and devoid of the ornaments he usually wore, with the exception of a silver ring on one of the toes."

"The old Police and the Magistrate imagined that Mahaboob and Agoonee had drugged themselves to screen their culpability. The Police, to make a good story of it, had deposited a piece of gold chain in the house of one Rughoo, which chain, it was stated, had belonged to the priest."

"Mahaboob, Agoonee and Rughoo were committed to the Sessions on a charge of murder. The Judge who tried the case exposed the iniquity of the charge regarding the discovery of the chain; observing at the conclusion of his judgment: 'Notwithstanding the protracted character of the investigation in this dark case nothing reliable has been elicited. It rests entirely on the weakest and most forced conclusions, and has no other than a Police origin and completion. The Darogah's proceedings regarding it are open to the gravest suspicions and are utterly unreliable. With these unsatisfactory results generally, I think this Court ought not to have been troubled with this commitment. I acquit

‘all the prisoners.’ The murder of the priest and the cause of Agoonee’s and Mahaboob’s intoxication remained shrouded in mystery, until the facts discovered by the Detective Department threw a flood of light on this ‘dark case.’ ”

“After perusal of the record, there was no doubt but that Phoolchand’s story was perfectly true. The difficulty was to obtain evidence at this distance of time, especially when Chutterdharee had since acquired comparative opulence, and no small influence in Bhaugulpore, from practising as a *Mookhtear*. Phoodoo was arrested by the Special Inspector at Katgur; without being permitted to communicate with any one, he was taken before the Magistrate and there, he also, made a full confession, which confirmed that of Phoolchand in every material point.”

“Johahir Tewary, an old servant of the temple, was summoned, and in his evidence corroborated Edoo’s statement that he had seen the carriage near the temple the evening before Budoor Mull had so mysteriously disappeared. He stated that he had seen Chutterdharee and Gopaul that evening with Budoor Mull. He testified that Gopaul had been left in charge of the temple when Budoor Mull went to Patna; that he was very intimate with the priest; that after the murder he never went to the temple and never assisted in the investigation. The account books, the keys, and cash were not found. He had seen five or six men with Chutterdharee that evening in the temple sitting near the priest.”

“The entire gang, with the exception of Juggernaut, was arrested. Juggernaut escaped into Nepal and has managed to evade the Police. His brother *Lokenauth Sing*, is a Constable in the Bhaugulpore Police. Mooscedeen, who, next to Chutterdharee, had most authority over the gang died in Jail. The rest of the prisoners, on the evidence collected, were committed for trial to the Court of Sessions by the Magistrate of Monghyr.”

“The case was tried by the Sessions Judge of Bhaugulpore at Monghyr with the help of Assessors. After the case had been concluded, the Assessors expressed a wish to view the place in which the murder was committed, and to examine the eye-witnesses *separately* on the spot. The Assessors remarked that since the murder was committed in the *inner court*, where it is not likely the witnesses had ever again entered, it was possible to test their evidence by seeing if they pointed out the *same* spot, or differed from each other in any respect.”

“The witnesses were kept apart, and were taken separately to the temple without having an opportunity of communicating with each other. The Assessors examined them in the presence of the Prisoners and the prosecutor; and it was remarkable how minutely in every respect their evidence agreed, as regarded the *spot* where the murder was committed, *how* the body was taken out of the temple, where the carriage stood, and the road by which the body was taken to the well; it was interesting to watch the manner of the prisoners when taken so strangely to the spot where they had perpetrated so foul a murder, all collected together (with the exception of Juggernaut) just as they had met on that memorable night in that quaint inner court yard; the change in their countenances, and the unuttered remarks they made to each other were sufficient to convince any one that the actual murderers of the priest were before him. The Assessors went direct after that examination to the Judge and to him delivered their verdict that ‘the witnesses had told the truth and the prisoners were no doubt guilty.’ ”

“The Judge on the 31st of January recorded his opinion of the case, and sentenced Chutterdharee, Gopaul, and Sunkur to capital punishment, and the rest to transportation for life.”

“The prisoners appealed to the High Court and were defended by Mr. Montrion and Baboo Ashootush Dhur. The Hon’ble Messrs Norman and Campbell on the 4th April confirmed the sentence of capital punishment as regards Chutterdharee and Gopaul, and the sentence of transportation for life on Bance, but directed the release of Sunkur, Kanie, Rama, Bhuttoo, and Kalee Dhanuck, because these men had only been *named* by two approver witnesses. The evidence of Edoo was regarded as that of an accomplice after the fact.”

“ Chutterharee and Gopaul were executed on the 16th of April in sight of the turrets of the Padooka Temple where they had murdered the priest. Bance will be sent to the Andamans; Suukur has already been sentenced in the case of Kanie Moodce to transportation for ten years; Rama has since been committed for trial to the Court of Sessions on a charge of dacoity, and Bhuttoo and Kallee Dhanuck, though professional poisoners, remain at large until sufficient evidence can be obtained to warrant their arrest a second time on similar charges.”

“ In the confession of Rajbullub the name of Sookreen appears as having been engaged in several cases of poisoning. A warrant was issued for his arrest, and on his being taken before the Magistrate of Monghyr he confessed to several cases of drugging travellers. Amongst others, he stated that about three years ago Sectaram informed the gang that a man had arrived at Colgong, who was too ill to travel on foot and had hired a cart, and was on his way towards Bhaugulpore. On hearing this Mahir Sha, Chakun Dosad, Piaree Dosad, Cholin Mussulman, and Jaffar Mussulman, Brijolall Dosad, Rajbullub Dosad, Sectaram and Sookreen, went to meet the cart. They met it near Padoo Shah's bridge about two miles from Colgong. They followed the cart to Bhaugulpore where the traveller put up for the night at *Karamullee's Serai*. The next morning he started on his journey in the cart and the gang followed him. At Champanullah Sectaram offered to get the sick traveller some milk. In that milk he mixed poison and gave it to the traveller. He also gave some of the milk to Piaree Dosad, who handed the same to the driver of the cart. They both partook of the milk. After going a short distance the traveller and the driver became insensible. Sectaram found on the traveller two hundred and fifty rupees and two Gold Mohurs. Both the travellers were left in the cart. Subsequently he learnt that they had both died and that the cart was taken to the Thannah.”

“ On this confession application was made to the Magistrate of Bhaugulpore to know if any such case had occurred at Champanullah, and, if so, to send the record relating to it. The Magistrate replied that the information was correct, a case had actually occurred, but that the papers relating to it had been burnt. He however, sent copies of Police papers obtained from thannah record. From these papers it appeared that it was Sectaram who had obtained the release of the cart from the Police, and had made it over to Syphun Bebee; that no clue had been obtained in the case; and the name of the driver of the cart was Mungul and that he was in the employ of Syphun Bebee, who first received news of the death of the driver and the traveller from Sectaram. It was also stated that the traveller had put up in the *Serai* of Boodee Buttearin, who had hired the cart for him from Syphun Bebee.”

“ On this the entire gang, with the exception of Brijolall, was arrested. He, it appears, had been previously imprisoned in another case of poisoning. Mohie Sha also confessed before the Magistrate confirming the confession of Sookreen. The Special Inspector while investigating the case found several witnesses. Two witnesses state that they saw the cart at Champanullah; that one man was lying below the cart, and another on it. One witness saw Sectaram removing a bundle from the cart. Four witnesses saw Rajbullub, Sookreen, and five or six other men standing near the cart at the time. One man had a red pugree, and he was described as ‘a fair man.’ Another witness testifies that he saw Sectaram bringing some milk from the village and taking it towards the cart. On asking him where he was going, Sectaram said that a friend of his was lying sick in the cart, and he was taking him some milk. Two other men, who were engaged in making bricks, had seen Rajbullub and Sookreen and with them several men; one man in particular who wore a red pugree.”

“ The evidence was laid before the Joint Magistrate, who after recording it made Sookreen and Mahir Sha Queen's evidence; and committed Sectaram Sha, Chakun Dosad, Jaffer Mussulman and Cholin Mussulman for trial to the Court of Sessions on a charge of murder. The case is still pending before the Sessions Judge of Bhaugulpore.”

“ Rajbullub and Sookreen in their confession both related a case of murder which occurred only six months ago on the *Kurkuree* Pahar just above the Railway Tunnel close to the station of Jamalpore. Rajbullub states that about six months ago Sookreen and he himself were on their way home to Komargunge from Jamalpore. They met Rahamul Kalefah and Roocha, and with them a traveller at Mowagurree. After talking with Rahamul and Roocha, they agreed to go back with them. On reaching the well below Kurkuree Pahar they sat down; and, as it was a hot day, Roocha prepared some *shurbut* in two *lotahs* with some *sukkur*. In one of the *lotahs* he mixed poison and gave that *lotah* to the traveller, who drank the contents. The other *lotah* was divided between himself, Sookreen, Roocha, and Rahamul. They then went up the hill; when they reached the top, the traveller sat down under a tamarind tree partially insensible. Soon after he dropped off asleep. Roocha then put his hand to the traveller's waist searching for his money; it appears that the man was still conscious, and that he laid hold of Roocha's hand, on this Roocha drew his hand away, and taking the traveller up in his arms threw him down on the rock. Rahamul Kalefah then took up a large stone and dashed it on his chest; blood flowed from the traveller's nose, and he died. Roocha took 12 rupees 8 annas from his waist, and Rahamul took away a red spotted *razie* and a *lotah*. They gave Bajbullub and Sookreen 2 rupees each. The traveller was a Brahmin, about 25 years old. Witness heard that the Police had enquired into the case.

“ The two confessing prisoners were taken separately on different dates; and both pointed out the *same* spot as that in which the murder was committed. The Special Inspector found a stick and some cloth lying near the place. On searching the house of Rahamul Kalefah a red spotted *razie* was found; he could give no satisfactory account how he came by it. Roocha, on being arrested at Patna, confessed to the same murder, but unfortunately the Police had never heard of the case; there was no ‘*corpus delicti*’ and no independent evidence to corroborate the confessions. For these reasons the murderers were not committed for trial to the Sessions. Roocha has made his escape out of the hands of the Police, and Rahamul Kalefah was proceeded against as a bad character. He is the father-in-law of Dwarka Dosad, who was tried for the murder of the two travellers in the Burreanpore case.

“ The gang at Bhaugulpore did not confine itself to simply drugging travellers, but, when an opportunity offered, also committed dacoity. Kashce Dosad, who had been arrested on the confession of Zalim, made the following statement before the Magistrate of Monghyr.—‘ About four years ago Bolakee Quiree came to me, and Bhyrab and Hurree Sonars, Sunkur Dosad, Bance Tetaree, Bance Dhanook, and Ram Tetaree, and asked us to go with him to his master Munzelal at Buggeamaree, who had need of our services. We went with him to Buggeamaree, when Munzelal informed Hurree and Bhyrab that some sirkaree money was expected from Tohaljurree, which he wished us to plunder. He gave us tarree to drink. He also sent eight men with us; I could recognize some of these men if I were to see them again, but I do not know their names. Sixteen of us started by a path through the jungles; and we met a cart at Baskoollah, on which there was a treasure box with money in it. The cart was under guard of two Chupprassies and the driver—three men altogether. We made a sudden dash at the cart out of the jungle. The Chupprassies and driver ran for their lives. We broke open the box with great stones; the money was in bags; we helped ourselves to a portion, and took the remainder to Munzelal. We let the buffaloes loose from the cart, and drove them into the jungle. I received 40 Rupees as my share and went home.’ ”

“ As Baskoollah is situated in the Sonthal Pergunnahs, the Commissioner of the Sonthal Pergunnahs was applied to for information if the story told by Kashce was true. He sent the record of a case which had occurred there in 1862. It appeared, the Railway Engineers were sending 5,000 Rupees from Tohaljurree to Sahibgunge in charge of Juggomohun Burkundanze. The money was plundered on the road by dacoits; but no clue had been obtained. The Special Inspector was directed to arrest Bolakee Quiree, who, it appeared from Kashce's confession, had taken so prominent a part in the case. Bolakee was arrested

Buggeeamarce, and, on being taken before the Magistrate of Monghyr, made a confession corroborating that of Kashee."

"In this case, it was necessary first to find Juggomohun, the Burkundauz who was in charge of the treasure at the time, and the driver of the cart. The latter has not been traced. The Railway Officials could render no assistance. Juggomohun had been dismissed after the robbery, but after some difficulty he was traced to Azimgurh. On his arrest, his evidence was recorded by the Magistrate of Monghyr. He described how the robbery had been committed, and recognized amongst the prisoners Kashee, Bolakee, Bance Danook, Sunkur Dosad, Ram Tetaree, and Ram Churn; the latter on being arrested also confessed before the Magistrate to have committed this dacoity."

"The Magistrate has made Kashee and Bolakee Queen's witnesses in the case, and has committed for trial to the Sessions, Ram Churn, Munzelal, Hurree Sonar, Bance Danook, and Ram Tetaree. The case is pending before the Sessions Judge of Bhaugulpore."

"In these investigations it came out that, originally there was a family of Dosads at Bahadaropore near Colgong, who were connected with Secta Ram, who in fact, was at that time their leader. They committed a dacoity about five years ago, in which Lakah, Sectaram, and others were arrested. Lakah escaped from the Bhaugulpore Jail. The old Police worried the Dosads to such an extent that they left Bahadaropore. Rajbullub, Sookrun, Bisnee, Gourree, and others removed to Kamargunge under the protection of Rahamul Kalefah Lakah, Dahoo, Chooah, Roocha, Ramnauth, Ramprishad, Bhuttoo and Samie removed to the village of *Parthoo*, and its vicinity, in the *Patna* District. Though thus separated, they still

1. Laka.
2. Dahoo.
3. Gourree.
4. Roocha.
5. Chooah.
6. Halasee.
7. Prail.
8. Bhuttoo.
9. Samie.

worked together. At the time the Dosads were arrested at Koomargunge, it was not known that they were connected with the Dosads about Parthoo. The Patna gang took the alarm at these proceedings and escaped. They have not been arrested to this day. Roocha and Chooah were once arrested, but they contrived to effect their escape. The Patna gang, therefore, remains untouched, and until they are arrested,* the crime of poisoning travellers will not cease

wholly in the adjoining Districts. The District Superintendents of Patna and Behar have been requested to watch for the return of these men. They are named in the margin."

"In these enquiries Mr. Reily has been ably and successfully assisted by Baboo Nobokisto Ghose. This Special Inspector has done his duty to the satisfaction of the Officers with whom he has come in contact; indeed the success in these cases is owing, in a greater measure, to his intelligence, activity and thorough honesty."

"Whilst investigating the cases in Behar a case of drugging occurred in the Howrah District, and was sent to Mr. Reily for enquiry. It appears that twelve persons had been poisoned at Bagnan on the road to Midnapore. One Badul Khan and his party were on their way home from Calcutta. They met two men at Oolooberriah, these two men, after conversing with them, stated that they intended to proceed to the same place, and made themselves quite friendly with the travellers, one of them carrying a cage of pigeons for them. It was remarked that one of their men had a bad sore in his leg. On reaching Bagnan in the evening the travellers with the two men put up for the night in the shop of Khan Mahomed and made preparations for cooking their dinner. They prepared three '*choolahs*' or cooking places. One of the strangers took charge of the centre *choolah*. After the food had been prepared, they all, with the exception of two children, who were too sleepy to eat, took their dinners; the two strangers, it was recollected, would not partake of the curry they had assisted in cooking but brought some tamarinds from the shop and made their dinner of that, with a curry of eggs, which had been cooked by Boodul Khan himself. Shortly after, the travellers, one after another, dropped down in a state of insensibility. Khan Mahomed, the Modee, took the alarm, and went for the Chowkeydar to give information to the Police. On his return he found the two strangers had

The Bagnan Case.

* Lakah has since been arrested.

decamped. The Police found the entire party, with the exception of the children, in a state of insensibility. Fortunately there was a Native Doctor at Bagnan who had been sent there by the Cyclone Committee. The Doctor found the travellers in a state of coma, and concluding from the symptoms that they had been poisoned, he administered emetics. The travellers did not recover consciousness for twenty-four hours, and did not regain their senses for some days. When they recovered, they naturally concluded that they had been poisoned by the two men who had joined them at Ooloobarriah. The only clue they could afford to the Police was that one of the men had a bad sore on his leg. Every search was made for the two men, but without success."

"The case was made over to the Detective Department, and the Special Inspector of 24-Pergunnahs was directed to investigate it. He, however, searched along the Burdwan and Midnapore roads without any success. He then went to the usual haunts of bad characters in Calcutta. At last at Machoo Bazar in the opium shop of Jabadhar Khan, he met a man named Mahomed Hossain, who stated that he knew a man who answered the description. Mahomed Hossain took the Special Inspector to a woman's house at Kala Bagaun; a man was lying asleep on a bed. *This man had a bad sore on his leg.*"

"On searching the house a powder was found in the bed on which this man (Jotoo) was sleeping. The finding of the powder appears to have completely disconcerted Jotoo; when he was charged with the poisoning of the travellers at Bagnan, he at once confessed and offered to point out his companion, whose name he stated was *Medan*, and who, he declared, had prepared the poison. The Special Inspector without loss of time took Jotoo to Muttar-pookur, where he said Medan lived. On Medan being arrested, he also confessed, at the same time charging Jotoo with having induced him to go with him on the poisoning expedition."

"Jotoo, on being taken before the Magistrate of Howrah, not only confessed to the case at Bagnan, but to three other cases; *viz.*, one in the Burdwan District, and another at Midnapore, and a third near Dum-Dum. He stated that Peeroo and Hurlal belonged to his gang. On enquiry it was found that the case he mentioned had actually occurred at Burdwan; the Magistrate of that District sent the records of the case, from which it appeared that Jotoo had been committed to the Sessions for poisoning a traveller and had been released by the Judge for want of sufficient evidence. It was found that the records of the case at Midnapore, where two Sepoys had been drugged, were also forthcoming, and the descriptive roll given by the victims suited exactly Jotoo, Hurlal and Peeroo. It was ascertained that the case at Dum-Dum had also occurred."

"Medan also made a full confession before the Magistrate of Howrah. The travellers from Midnapore who had been drugged, on seeing Jotoo and Medan, identified them as the two travellers they had met at Ooloobarriah, and whom they had last seen at Bagnan. Jotoo in his confession described how he had poisoned the curry while it was being cooked, and how he had drugged the rice which was boiling in a separate pot. This he had every opportunity of doing as he was sitting by the centre *choolah*. This circumstance also explained how those of the party who had not partaken of the curry were also drugged. This evidence was laid before the Deputy Magistrate of Howrah, who committed the prisoners for trial to the Court of Sessions. They were tried before the Sessions Judge with the help of a Jury, and were convicted and sentenced to ten years' imprisonment. On appeal the sentence was confirmed by the High Court. A reward of 50 Rupees was sanctioned to the informer."

"On the arrest of Hurlal and Peeroo they likewise confessed, implicating Nilkaunth and Hurree Dutt. The cases they refer to having occurred within Calcutta; the prisoners were made over to the Calcutta Police. Peeroo died in Jail; and the sufferers in the case in which Hurlal was implicated having also died he could not be prosecuted. Nilkaunth was committed to the Sessions by the Magistrate of Calcutta, and was sentenced to fourteen years' rigorous imprisonment."

"While engaged on these cases, Mr. Reily was informed by the Hon'ble Mr. Eden that

when he was Magistrate of Baraset he had tried a gang of 'Oorials' who were professional poisoners in Calcutta; that some of the prisoners had confessed and had mentioned the names of several members of the gang, and that it was not at all improbable that some of the party were still at work in Calcutta. The record was procured from the Magistrate of Baraset, and it was found that six persons had been convicted and punished. On searching for the men who had been implicated at that time, it appeared that one named, Narain Doss had been sentenced to ten years' imprisonment in 1863. The Special Inspector, Bakaoollah, was directed to see the prisoner, who offered to furnish information."

"With the sanction of the Superintendent of the Alipore Jail Mr. Reily saw Narain Doss on the 11th July 1865, who mentioned several cases as having occurred at Kidderpore, Bagmarce, and Balligunge. These places being close by, Narain Doss was taken to Kidderpore, and on his pointing out the house where the case mentioned by him had occurred, it was ascertained that he had told the truth; the owner of the house had recognized the prisoner and described how she had been drugged by him and others. The Special Inspector also enquired into the case which occurred at Bagmarce where Soondersen Mallee in the same manner corroborated the story told by Narain Doss. Application was then made to the Magistrate of the 24-Pergunnahs to record the confession of Narain Doss; which was done on the 13th July 1865. Narain Doss in his confession mentioned thirteen cases as having occurred in the Districts of the 24-Pergunnahs, Howrah and Jessore. The Magistrate applied to Government to have Narain Doss made over to the custody of the Police. This was sanctioned under the orders of Government No. 1111, dated 5th September 1865."

"The Special Inspector investigated first the case of Soondersen Mallee at Bagmarce. Narain made the following statement before the Magistrate *viz* :—
Soondersen Mallee's Case.

" 'One Toolsee Daib, who lives at Bara Bazaar, informed Ram Moitee that there was a Mallee named Soondersen who lived not far from the Eastern Bengal Railway Station and who had money. Toolsee Ram Moitee and I went to the Mallee who had charge of a garden house, and said to him that a Baboo intended to pass a day in the garden with his mistress, and offered him a present if he could accommodate the Baboo. To this proposition Soondersen agreed. After a while Ram Moitee joined me and asked the Mallee to sweep the room and prepare it for the Baboo's reception. We then remained there during the day; on feeling thirsty, the Mallee gave us each a cocoanut which was taken down from the tree by a Mussulman. While in the garden, finding my clothes dirty, I had them washed by a *dhobee* who was washing clothes that day in a tank attached to the garden. About 3 o'clock Toolsee Daib dressed as a Baboo and came to the garden. We received the Baboo with great respect, and gave the Mallee three annas to fetch three seers of milk. The Mallee borrowed a lotah from some one and went to fetch the milk. Ram Moitee went to the bazaar and purchased some '*choorah*' and '*goor*.' We asked the Mallee to cook the *choorah* in the milk he had brought. The goor we divided into two shares; with one of the shares Ram Moitee mixed poison. After the Mallee had cooked the food, three plantain leaves were spread; the Baboo of course not eating with us. We mixed the *goor* which was in a *thalie* with our mess; while the poisoned *goor*, which was in a cup, we handed to the Mallee, who eat it with his share of the milk and *choorah*. After a while the Mallee complained that his head was going round and that he felt thirsty. He wished to drink water, but he took care not to give him any. He soon became insensible, when we helped ourselves to his cash and clothes and to all he had in the house. The *loot* was taken to Toolsee Daib's. After two days I found one Bhoijun who agreed to purchase the property. Toolsee and Ram Moitee went with me to dispose of it. Toolsee remained sitting near a tank with the property, and I went to see if Bhoijun was alone. On finding he was alone, I beckoned to them to come. Ram Moitee and Toolsee brought the property which we sold for 6 Rupees; the money was paid into Toolsee's hands.' "

"On arresting Bhoijun, the Special Inspector found a portion of the property still on him; and Bhoijun declared that Narain Doss, with two others, had pledged this as well as

other property to him for 6 Rupees, promising to redeem them in eight days; but they had not since made their appearance; that he sold a *thalee* to Baındaib Borecah, and some of the clothes to another Ooriah Mallee who resides at Ooltadanga. The *thalee* and the clothes were found on Ram Daib and the Ooriah Mallee."

" Finding that the confession was so far confirmed, Ram Moitee and Toolsee were arrested. Soondarsun Mallee on being summoned recognized Narain and the two prisoners, and described how he had been drugged and robbed. His story corroborated the confession of Narain Doss. The man who had taken the coconuts from the tree was found, as well as the washerman who had washed Narain's clothes that day, and also the man from whom Soondersun had borrowed the lotah in which he had brought the milk."

" On laying this evidence before the Joint Magistrate of the 24-Pergunnahs, he committed the prisoners Ram Moitee and Toolsee for trial to the Court of Sessions. They were tried before a Jury on the 10th of November 1865. The Jury were unanimous in finding the prisoners guilty of the charge of administering a stupefying drug to Soondersun Mallee with intent to rob him. The prisoners were sentenced to seven years' transportation. On appeal the sentence was confirmed by the High Court."

" The next case investigated was one in which *Mohonee*, a prostitute, was drugged at Kidderpore. It appears that one Madhub Pote, who is the leader of the gang, took Narain and Luckeah Ooriah and pointed out to them the house of Mohonee. They then went in and had a smoke, and after remaining there for two or three hours gave her a rupee, and came away telling her they would call again. They went a second time about two days after the first visit. It was planned that she should be asked to go with them to Kalleeghat, as in this case she would put on all her jewels. She agreed to accompany them, having, as expected, dressed herself in her best ornaments. About 4 o'clock in the evening they hired a carriage and drove with her to Kalleeghat. On the bridge, they saw Madhub Pote standing there with some milk in a lotah. After worshipping Kallee they walked back, and on the way stopped by the side of a tank and proposed to purchase some sweetmeats. Narain brought the sweetmeats, which the woman eat with them. Mohonee asked for some water to drink, they said to her 'the water here is not good,' and offered to get her some milk. Narain went and brought some milk from Madhub, who had put poison in it. The latter kept out of the way, as he was known to Mohonee. She drank the whole of the milk. They then walked on towards Kidderpore. As it became dark they arrived opposite the High Court, when Mohonee complained of feeling giddy and thirsty. They supported her, holding her by the arms, and took her *across the plains* to Princep's ghat, and there laid her down under a tree; she was soon quite insensible. Madhub then came up and robbed her of all her ornaments, taking away her clothes; they left her half naked under the tree, merely tying a small piece of cloth round her waist."

" Mohonee was found by the Special Inspector, and confirmed every part of this strange story, stating that she had lain under the tree the whole of the night and till the next evening, when she recovered her senses and found that she was robbed of every thing, even to her clothes. She recognized Narain Doss as one of the men who had drugged her. Luckeah was then arrested, and on him a phial containing poison and datooral seeds was found. The Chemical Examiner declared these to be poisons. A woman named Meddra who lived in the same house with Mohonee, also recognized Narain and Luckeah. Her neighbours Khamah, Khamak, and another Mohonoo also identified the prisoners; stating that they had seen them at Mohonee's house, that she had accompanied them in a carriage, and that she had returned the next evening almost naked and without her ornaments."

" This case was also committed, Luckeah was found guilty and sentenced to seven years' transportation. The sentence was confirmed by the High Court."

" Narain's confession also relates to a case which occurred at Gourecpore, near Dum-Dum, where three prostitutes named Hurro, Dabce and Degum had been robbed of valuable ornaments. The Special Inspector went to Gourecpore and found two of the prostitutes,—

the third, Degum, having since died. They confirmed Narain's confession. They stated that for about a month, two Ooriahs, Godie and Bedah, were in the habit of visiting them. On the day previous to the Ruth festival they came with Madhub and proposed to pass the night with them and to attend the Ruth festival the next day. In the evening the three Ooriahs cooked their dinner in the cow-shed, where the women also cooked their food. The *Ooriahs* prepared a curry and gave some of it to the women. The curry which the women themselves had cooked was left for some time in the cow-shed. They cannot say which of the two curries was drugged, as they partook of both. About an hour after eating their dinner they recollect feeling giddy and thirsty; and remember nothing more, as they fell down insensible. The third day on recovering consciousness they found that 120 Rupees, which they had buried below the floor of their house, and ornaments valued at 30 or 40 Rupees, had been stolen; they never saw the Ooriahs after that night. It appears Narain had never entered their house, but had remained in the bazaar waiting for his associates."

"Narain's story being thus confirmed, the Special Inspector arrested Godie, Bedah and Madhub. The two prostitutes clearly and satisfactorily identified them as the three men by whom they had been drugged on that night. On Madhub, a silver chain was found which was claimed by the women as their property, and which was recognized by several neighbours who had often seen her wear it."

"They were tried, convicted, and sentenced to seven years' transportation."

"When Madhub's house was searched he had seven hundred Rupees in his box. This money was well laid out by his mistress, who engaged a Barrister of the Court to draw up a petition to the Lieutenant-Governor, urging that Madhub's sentence was illegal. The petition, however, was rejected. This man Madhub was the *leader* of the gang of *Ooriahs* who have taken to drugging as a profession, and was implicated in almost every case that has been investigated in the 24-Pergunnahs."

"Narain in his confession states that about two years ago he and Godie Raoot made friends with an Ooriah Mallee, who had charge of a garden at Goodoodangah near Dum-Dum. One evening in the month of Bhador, they went to the garden and said to the Mallee, 'we are hungry.' It was arranged that the Mallee should get them some *choorah* and milk. He did so, and they cooked the *choorah* in the milk, and divided the mess into three shares. The Mallee was sent to fetch water from the tank, and they took that opportunity to mix poison with some *goor* he had brought. The Mallee ate his share of the mess with the *goor*. He soon became giddy and then insensible. They robbed him of all he had. They gave a part of the spoils to Madhub because he had supplied them with the poison."

"The Special Inspector on going to Goodoodangah found the Mallee who confirmed Narain's confession on every point. It appears that on the morning after the occurrence two men named Hothoo Mundul and Goburdhun had discovered the Mallee in a state of delirium, tearing the ground with his nails and rolling about. They locked him in a room and informed his master of the state he was in, who ordered Madhub Mistree to take care of him. The Mallee remained in this state for two days, after applying remedies, he recovered his consciousness and told them in what manner he had been drugged. On returning to his house he found he had been robbed."

"The evidence of the Mallee was clear and straightforward, and was sufficient corroboration of the confession. Godie was committed for trial to the Court of Sessions, but though the Judge charged for conviction, the Jury acquitted him. He was, however, sentenced to seven years' transportation in the case of Hurro Raur."

"The next case investigated on Narain's confession was one in which a prostitute named Omolah and her son were the victims at Talcegunge. Narain states that Madhub pointed out her house to him, and that they and Gobind agreed to drug her. It appears that Omolah lived with her son, who at that time was serving his apprenticeship in a carpenter's shop. Narain

and Gobind at first paid her a visit and remained an hour or two, and, having given her a Rupee, they left, promising to call on her in a day or two. Two days after they went to her house late in the evening and proposed to have some thing to eat. The woman, as usual, was sent to buy milk and *choorah*, which, when brought, she was asked to cook. Some sugar which Narain had with him was drugged. The woman and her son both partook of the sugar. On this Gobind went out of the house, leaving Narain with the woman, and joined Madhub who was concealed under some plantain trees which are near the house. About 10 o'clock the woman became insensible, when Gobind and Madhub entered the house and began to take the ornaments from her person. Her son, who was still conscious of what was going on laid hold of Gobind's hand. On this Gobind took up some wood which was burning and applied it to the boy's arm and hand. The boy let go his hold and dropped off insensible. The three robbed the house, and the property was taken to Madhub's residence."

"The Sepecial Inspector went to Taleegunge and found Omolah and her son. She confirmed Narain's statement and said that her son Esan had not wholly recovered his senses since that night. He is now an idiot. She identified Narain and Gobind who had been arrested in another case. A silver chain which had been found on Madub was claimed by Omolah, this was proved by the evidence of her neighbours to be her property. The identification of the chain was clear and satisfactory; for in addition to the evidence of the neighbours, a silversmith, who had repaired the chain while it was in Omolah's possession, identified it by a portion of his work."

"They were tried, and, though the Judge charged for conviction, the Jury most unaccountably released the prisoners. It is fortunate, however, that both Madhub and Gobind had been committed for trial in the case of Hurro and Dabee Raur, in which they were convicted and sentenced to seven years' imprisonment."

"Narain's confession refers to a case which he affirms occurred in Sham Bazaar near Calcutta. He states that Gopal Ooriah, Sechoo, and Soodum lodged with a woman in that place named Suttamoney whom they had drugged and robbed. The Special Inspector went to Sham Bazaar and traced Suttamoney, who stated that, four Ooriahs had taken lodgings in her house, hiring a room at six annas a month. They had given their names as Bugwan, Hurree, Denoo and Kessub, and lived with her upwards of a month. On the day of the Sankranthi Poojah she had a feast and sent sweetmeats, &c., to the Ooriahs. Two days after the feast the man who called himself Bugwan brought her some sweetmeats in return, which she, her brother Nobin, and a lad named Shama Churn ate. Shortly after, the woman adds, 'I felt giddy and dry in my throat and went to drink water. Nobin and Shama Churn went into the shop. I recollect no further, and must have lost my senses. I recovered consciousness after the lapse of two days, and found I had been robbed of my ornaments and other property to the value of 70 rupees. Nobin and Shama Churn had suffered in the same way, but not so severely. We never saw our Ooriah lodgers from that day, we searched for them everywhere but never could trace them.'"

"On the confirmation of the confession, Gopal, Sechoo, and Soodam were arrested. Suttamoney, Nobin, and Shama Churn identified them without any hesitation as their lodgers who had passed themselves off under feigned names. Gopal, finding the evidence against him so strong, made a full confession before the Magistrate, not only of this case, but *three* others which have been tested and found to be true. Against Gopal we had the evidence of Suttamoney, Nobin, and Shama Churn, corroborated by his own confessions; and yet the Joint Magistrate of the 24-Pergunnahs discharged the prisoners."

"The case was appealed by Mr. Reily to the Sessions Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs, in accordance with Section 435 of the Criminal Procedure Code. The Sessions Judge, after perusing the evidence, directed the Magistrate to commit Gopal for trial to the Sessions. This has since been done, and there is no doubt the prisoners will be convicted. Gopal is one of the most notorious poisoners of the Ooriah gang in Calcutta. In 1864, he was arrested in a case of drugging, and a quantity of datoora seeds and other poisons were found on his person."

“ The cases investigated in Howrah and the 24-Pergunnahs, it will be observed, are different from those which were investigated in the Patna and Bhaugulpore Circles. They relate to a gang composed chiefly of *Ooriahs*, who confine their operations to men of their own province and to prostitutes. The gang was a most mischievous one, and it is satisfactory to state that it has been entirely broken up; not a single case of drugging has occurred in either Howrah or the 24-Pergunnahs since the Detective Department took up these cases. Mr. Reily brings to notice the efficient, and successful exertions of the Special Inspector, Moonshee Buka Oollah, in these cases.

“ The proceedings in the Patna and Bhaugulpore Division occupied some time; the delay was unavoidable owing to the same gang having committed crime in different Districts and under separate jurisdictions. Mr. Reily acknowledges the ready assistance that was afforded to him by the Magistrates of Bhaugulpore and Monghyr, and I have much pleasure in bringing to the notice of the Lieutenant-Governor the zeal and energy with which Mr. Reily himself has conducted the special duties of his Department, and the success which has attended his exertions. He has fully earned the promotion which the Lieutenant-Governor has been pleased to accord to him.”

STATEMENT
OF
THUGGEE BY MEANS OF POISON, &c.,
IN
BRITISH DISTRICTS
FOR THE
YEAR 1866.

STATEMENT of reported Cases of Thuggee by means of Poison in British Districts during the year 1866.

| GOVERNMENTS OR ADMINISTRATIONS. | NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH NO CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER AND NAMES OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER OF CASES | REMARKS |
|---------------------------------|--|---|-----------------|--|
| BENGAL. | 46 | (1) MONGHYR | 2 | <p>According to the Inspector General of Police, "There was <i>one</i> case only in Monghyr," but the following <i>two</i> cases are, nevertheless, detailed in the Police Administration Report, <i>viz.</i>—</p> <p>(1) 26th April 1866.—One person drugged, 3 arrested, of whom 1 died and 2 were acquitted.—"Having taken my discharge from the Calcutta Police, I was proceeding to my home in Lucknow. On the 26th April, I met the defendant, who had two bags with him, near a river, where I stopped to bathe; after some conversation, we proceeded together to Burreah Bazar, when the defendant parted with me, with the intention of, as he said, going to beg, as he had no money. After cooking and eating my dinner, I laid down to sleep, when the defendant arrived, and after talking for some time, offered me a smoke, which I accepted, not suspecting any thing. However, immediately after smoking I became insensible, and remained so till next morning, when I found that I had been robbed, and the defendant, whom I at once suspected, was not to be found. I therefore set off along the Patna road in search of him, and overtook him in the Durriarpore Bazar, and charged him with having taken my money, which he denied, and endeavored to escape. The Police, however, came to my assistance, and the defendant was secured. The purse, containing Rs. 35, was found on the prisoner; this I recognized as that taken from my waist, and in which I had Rs. 37. The prisoner was brought to Monghyr by the Sub-Inspector, and on being questioned, stated that he was a Mussulman, and that he was returning from Maldah where he had been for some time, and that he was going to his home in Arrah. In appearance the man looked like a Mussulman, having a beard; but on uncovering his head I found that he had a <i>teek</i>, from which it would appear that he was a Hindoo by caste;—he could not mention the names of the places where he had put up on the road from Maldah, and altogether gave a very unsatisfactory account of himself. Considering the evidence against him was sufficient, the case was sent up for trial. The Joint Magistrate dismissed the case; but an appeal having been made to the Sessions Judge, he sent for the record, and ordered that the accused should be committed for trial. The man had, however, left Monghyr; he was subsequently arrested and sent to the Joint Magistrate, who committed him to the Sessions."</p> <p>(2) 25th August 1866.—One person drugged.—"He was returning from Howrah (where he had been in service) to his home in Shapoorah; on the way he met the defendant, who travelled with him, and for some days they messed together—the defendant cooking for both. On the evening of the 24th August, they halted near the village of Degachee, where defendant cooked some food, half of which he took himself, and made the remainder over to the complainant, who, <i>finding it bitter to the taste</i>, did not eat much of it. The next morning they resumed their journey; but the plaintiff complained that he felt very sick, and had been so all night; on this, the defendant said he would give him something to set him right, and accordingly gave him something rolled up in a leaf of the Bale-tree which he ate. After this, the complainant got worse, and at length, being unable to walk, defendant took him up in his arms, and carried him off the road to a tree, under which he laid him down; the complainant soon after became quite insensible, and remained so for about 24 hours. On coming to his senses he found that he had been robbed; as soon as he was sufficiently recovered to proceed, he started in the direction of Monghyr, as the defendant had stated he was a native of that town. On the 26th, while resting himself on the banks of the Goorzat Nullah, immediately outside the village of Goorzat, he saw the defendant come out of a house in the village, when he gave the alarm and charged the defendant with having robbed him. The Sub-Inspector who was in the neighbourhood went to the place, and learnt that the defendant was staying with a relation of his in the village; he therefore searched the house and found all the complainant's property; the owner of the house acknowledged that the defendant had brought it with him two days before. The Sub-Inspector also discovered that the plaintiff's story, with reference to the drugging, was quite true. The defendant was sent up for trial, and was committed to the Sessions."</p> |
| Crd. over | } 46 | 1 DISTRICT ... | 2 | |

| GOVERNMENTS OR ADMINISTRATIONS. | NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH NO CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER AND NAMES OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER OF CASES. | REMARKS. |
|---------------------------------|--|---|------------------|---|
| Brt. over | 16 | 1 DISTRICT ... | 2 | <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE :—" A few cases have also occurred in the Patna Division."</p> |
| BENGAL—continued. | | | | <p>POLICE ADMINISTRATION REPORT :—" Out of nine poisoning cases which occurred, the three first were successfully investigated by the Police, and several men known to be professional poisoners, who had for years contrived to evade conviction, were arrested and convicted. Among these was Lakha, long known to be the leader of a gang, and who successfully evaded every effort of the Police to arrest him for the last two years. His exploits are narrated in last year's report"—(vide Appendix to the Thuggee Statement for 1865, and paras. 5 to 18 of the Appendix to the present Statement for 1866. Lakha was acquitted).</p> <p>The following are accounts of two of the above cases, as taken from the Police Administration Report :—</p> <p>(1) June 1866, exact date not stated.—Three persons drugged.—" A Pasee, named Khetroo and his two children, were found lying insensible in their house. His wife was also partially insensible. She stated that a woman had given them some sweetmeats, after eating which they became insensible. The woman had been living in the neighbourhood for some days, but was not now to be found. After a long and protracted search this woman was arrested and committed for trial to the Sessions."</p> <p>MEMO.—The result of the trial is not apparent. It does not appear, too, whether the drugged parties were robbed.</p> |
| | | (2) PATNA ... | 9 | <p>(2) 22nd June 1866.—Four persons drugged.—" On enquiry, it was found that on the previous evening, six men travelling from Patna to Gya, had put up at the house of one Gokool Shah. They bought from him some <i>attah</i> and <i>dahee</i>; one of the Mussulmans bought some <i>tarree</i> at another shop; they all then went to a tree near the bunneah's and sat down to eat. At day-light the four Hindoos were seen lying insensible, and one of the two Mussulmans, whilst trying to run away, was arrested at some little distance from the village by Constable Maghoo, who happened to be passing through, and received information of the occurrence. Two of the four Hindoos, after some hours, recovered sufficiently to recognize the Mussulman, who had been arrested, as the man who had bought <i>tarree</i> for them the previous evening. On this the man was sent to Hajut. No trace could be found of the other Mussulman; but in the course of the enquiries made after him, it was ascertained that two Dosadhs of Mosroni, who generally led a vagrant life, and against whom, in a former poisoning case, there had been grave suspicion, had been missing for several days past from their village. These two men were arrested and sent up for trial on a charge of vagrancy under Sec. 101, Criminal Procedure Code. As soon as they were arrested they offered to point out the whereabouts of Daboo and Chooa, two well known poisoners, for whose apprehension large rewards had been offered some time before. Some sharp Constables were detailed to accompany these Dosadhs, and on the following day, on the Dinapore road, they pointed out Daboo smoking under a peepul tree, with five other men. The Constables arrested all these men, and brought them in to the District Superintendent at Bankipore, when it was discovered that among these men was the notorious Lakha, the leader of a gang, who for two years had managed to evade arrest, and also Gouree and Beharee, two members of the gang. All these men were ultimately sent up for trial and convicted."</p> <p>MEMO.—No account was given of the rest of the cases. In the Appendix, however, several cases are described, some of which may appertain to Patna for the present year, but as the districts in which they occurred and their dates are not mentioned, there is an uncertainty on the subject.</p> <p>This case corresponds very much with, and would, indeed, seem to be a revival of the practice (if it has ever been dormant) of emigrants poisoning their companions when returned to India with their savings, which was brought by me to notice on a former occasion. Having carried the crime from India and practised it, as it is believed, in the Mauritius, the miscreants reverted on their return to this country to the same means for now appropriating the earnings of their fellow-laborers—(vide my Report in the Foreign Department, No. 794, dated 15th September 1863, para. XX and enclosures). The following is the account of it, viz. :—</p> |
| Crd. over | 46 | 3 DISTRICTS... | 12 | |

| GOVERNMENTS OR ADMINISTRATIONS. | NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH NO CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBERS AND NAMES OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER OF CASES. | REMARKS. |
|---------------------------------|--|--|------------------|---|
| BENGAL—continued. | 46 | 3 DISTRICTS ... | 12 | <p>4th May 1866.—One man drugged.—“One Anunt Kowar, a native of Sherghotty, was travelling home after 18 years' service in Trinidad. At Dinapore, on the 2nd May, he fell in with two Gowalas, also just returned from the Mauritius. The three joined company. About day-break on the 4th, shortly after leaving Perwezabad, a small bazar and Police out-post, half way between Urnul and Daoodnuggur, the Gowalas drugged their companion, and robbed him of his 18 years' savings—124 English sovereigns, Rs. 990 in Bank of Bengal notes, clothes and other articles, valued in all Rs. 2,646-8. From the night of the 3rd, he lost all account of them until the afternoon of the 5th, when he found himself near Parussea, 18 miles south of Perwezabad. He then made his way to Anrumbabad, and told his tale. The Head Constable in charge referred him back to Perwezabad: thence notice was sent to the Urnul Station, and, on the 10th, the Sub-Inspector, discrediting the story, carried off the complainant into Gya. The District Superintendent went to the spot forthwith. On the 16th, the Head Constable of the out-post traced the two Gowalas to village Kaysur near Aurnungabad, and found on them 110 sovereigns, ornaments and clothes; the Inspector, on learning this, instituted a second search, which resulted in the recovery of the Rs. 990 in notes and other property, increasing the total to Rs. 2,348. The three relations of the Gowala were likewise sent up on a charge of complicity. The complainant unfortunately died of cholera before the judicial enquiry was completed, but the higher charge of drugging was still proved. All five accused were convicted by the Judge under Section 328, Penal Code. The Sub-Inspector of Urnul and the Head Constable of Aurnungabad were degraded; the Head Constable of Perwezabad was promoted.” The sentences awarded to the criminals do not appear.</p> |
| | | (3) BEHAR—continued ... | | |
| | | (4) SHAHABAD ... | 1 | <p>POLICE ADMINISTRATION REPORT:—“On the 11th January, two pilgrims were stupefied and robbed by two men who professed themselves to be also pilgrims. The latter were arrested and committed to the Sessions, the Magistrate remarking that the conduct of the Police was prompt and energetic.” (MEMO.—The sentence has not been stated.)</p> |
| | | (5) SARUN .. | 5 | <p>POLICE ADMINISTRATION REPORT:—“Five cases of drugging occurred during the year; in four of these arrests were made; in two, the offenders were sentenced to transportation; in a third the prisoner confessed to having given the <i>ata</i> (or flour) with which poison was mixed, but pleaded ignorance as to there having been poison in it, and was consequently acquitted by the Deputy Magistrate. This case was brought to the notice of the Sessions Judge, and the Deputy Magistrate, who tried it, was censured. In the fourth case, the defendant was released, the evidence being considered insufficient; and in one only there was no clue obtained.” MEMO.—No account of these cases was given or of the number of persons who were drugged in them; but probably some of those detailed in the Appendix may be identical cases, about which, however, there is no certainty, <i>dates and districts</i> being omitted.</p> |
| | | (6) TIRHOOT ... | 1 | <p>5th October 1866.—One person drugged.—“One Dhurram Gorait brought a man named Jobun Tativa, to the police station of Seetamarhee, and reported that the latter had joined a man named Babun on the road, and that when they had walked a little distance, Babun fell down, and became insensible. The prisoner Jobun Tativa took Babun's property and was making off; he, the Gorait, at once caught hold of him, and found on his person some <i>goor</i> mixed with <i>dhuttoora</i> seed. Sub-Inspector Jeyram Sing immediately sent in the insensible man to the hospital. Subsequently the charge of administering drug with intent to cause injury, having been proved against Jobun Tativa, he was sent up for trial. He was committed to the Sessions, and sentenced to 3 years' rigorous imprisonment.”</p> |
| | | (7) BANCOORAH ... | 1 | <p>10th May 1866.—This case was not considered to be the deed of a professional poisoner, but as from the drug which was used, the practice commonly followed by poisoners may have recommended itself to the criminal, or as the person who administered it may have been a practised poisoner, it is here returned as <i>being altogether a case of poisoning, viz.:</i>—</p> |
| Crd. over | 46 | 7 DISTRICTS... | 20 | |

| GOVERNMENTS OR ADMINIS- TRATIONS. | NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH NO CASES WERE REPORTED | NUMBER AND NAMES OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER OF CASES. | REMARKS. |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|------------------|---|
| Brt. over | 46 | 7 DISTRICTS... | 20 | |
| BENGAL—continued. | | (7) BANCOORAH,—contd. ... | | <p>10th May 1866.—One person drugged who died.—“This was a case of murder of a girl by the administration of poison in the village of Saldongora. It appears that Sohochurry, the mother of the deceased girl, had for some years a quarrel with a woman named Preo Chassancee, the husband of the latter having an intrigue with the former. On the day of the deceased's death (the 10th May), she was playing outside of the house of Preo Chassancee. Deceased's grandmother heard Preo Chassancee's daughter call deceased into the house, she went in and on her return, was seen licking her hands, on which was some <i>goor</i>. She said to her mother, “Preo Chassancee gave me some <i>goor</i>, I ate it, and, now, I have pains.” The girl then became very ill; she foamed at the mouth and vomitted, and died within four hours. Preo Chassancee and Mothoo were arrested and sent up for trial. They were committed under Section 302, and sentenced to transportation for life.”</p> |
| | | (8) BEERBHOM ... | 1 | <p>27th July 1866.—One person drugged.—“It was reported that three women had poisoned a fourth. They confessed to having given her <i>sattoo</i>, in which was a drug purchased from a certain man, who, however, denied having given them any drug whatever. The three women were arrested and sent in for trial, the deceased, before her death, having distinctly accused them; in addition to which, it was satisfactorily proved that they had administered some drug, and that she died shortly afterwards. The contents of the stomach were forwarded to the Chemical Examiner, who, however, detected no poisonous matter. The women were in consequence released.”</p> <p>MEMO.—If the poison was <i>dhutoora</i> or some other vegetable substance, as it probably was, only that portion would be discovered in the intestines which had not taken effect, namely, <i>entire seeds</i>,—and as <i>dhutoora</i>, for instance, is generally administered in powder, all of which is <i>at once absorbed</i>, it was not a sequence that because no poisonous matter was discovered, the person had <i>not been poisoned</i>! The medical officer merely gave the fact that he found none.</p> |
| | | (9) HAZAREEBAGH ... | 1 | <p>24th March 1866.—Two persons drugged.—“One Kurreem Bux and his nephew had been selling some cloth at the Ranchee fair, and were returning homewards to Barvilly. They stopped at Chumparun at a provisioner's house, where they were joined by two other persons. They cooked their dinner apart: after taking dinner Sheikh Kurreem Bux became uneasy, and as his speech was affected, he declared to his nephew that they had been poisoned. On this, Khoda Bux and Mohur Goala ran away, and the two travellers became insensible. They lost Rs. 900. No trace of the suspected man was obtained. The failure in this case was entirely attributable to the gross neglect of the Head Constable of Chumparun.”</p> |
| | | (10) RAJSHAHYE ... | 1 | <p>5th April 1866.—Four persons drugged.—“Four travellers were drugged in the Chandpore Bazar, and property to the value of Rs. 127 was stolen from them. Suspicion was strong against a Brahmin, who joined company with them on the road, and absconded, as also against the shopkeeper who sold food to them. The latter was summoned by the Magistrate, but was released. The action of the Police was slow, otherwise the absconding Brahmin would have been taken.”</p> |
| TOTAL | 46 | 10 DISTRICTS ... | 23 | <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE:—Poisoning cases (en!) arrested 16 persons; discharged 2; committed for trial 14.—“The poisoning cases taken up were connected with those successfully investigated during the year 1865. No particular cases have occurred in any of the districts adjoining the Presidency or in Bhadrulpore. There was one case in Monghyr; a few cases have also occurred in the Patna Division; but the number has decreased since detective operations were extended to those districts; 3 cases of murder were handed over to the Special Inspectors, in which several persons were arrested; only one was discharged and 6 men convicted.”</p> |

| GOVERNMENTS OR ADMINISTRATIONS. | NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH NO CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER AND NAMES OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER OF CASES. | REMARKS. |
|---------------------------------|--|---|------------------|--|
| NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES. | | | | <p>MEMO.—But, as already stated, the 23 cases now returned were gathered from the Police Administration Report itself, <i>only one of which</i> was not perhaps the deed of the common poisoner, namely, in Bancoorah, <i>quod vide</i>.</p> <p>Owing to some only of these cases being detailed in the Police Administration Report, and to the information given in those described being incomplete, summary details for all cannot here be shown.</p> <p>(A case of murder by strangulation took place in Noakhally, an account of which is given under that district in the Police Administration Report,—but as it was described to have been committed through enmity, it is merely alluded to in this place as an event, and not as a case of Thuggee).</p> <p>The proceedings of the local detective department in poisoning cases detailed at length in the Police Administration Report, are attached to the present Statement as an Appendix, in continuation of the special measures narrated in the Appendix attached to the Statement for 1865. —Some of the cases there described may be identical with some of the 23 cases here returned as of occurrence in Bengal in 1866, but of which nothing certain can be stated in this place from want of dates and of the names of the districts in which the events described took place.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">End of Bengal.</p> |
| | 9 | (1) MEERUT ... | 2 | <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE:—<i>Meerut</i>.—"Only one case of professional poisoning occurred; it was one of many similar cases committed during the year by the same two men, a <i>Brahmin</i> and a <i>Kaeth</i>, subsequently apprehended." (MEMO.—No account was given of these two cases.)</p> <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE:—"There was one case of professional poisoning in which the victims recovered; the culprits, owing to omission on the part of the zemindars and chowkedars to give information, were not detected. The latter were punished."</p> <p>DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE, <i>in charge of poisoning cases</i>:—"In Allyghur one case occurred, and this a doubtful one, as the plaintiff was not robbed of any of his property." (MEMO.—But according to a statement received from the local Magistrate, it would seem that property to value of Rs. 18 was robbed in this case, if actual robbery was an essential element to the proof of the actual occurrence of the crime, property being only robbed according to the opportunity presented <i>after</i> the crime (has been perpetrated.)</p> |
| | | (2) ALLYGHUR ... | 1 | <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE.—"Four professional poisoning cases were prosecuted to conviction during the year" (MEMO.—Three only are returned in the classified return of offences detailed in Appendix I of the Police Administration Report for the North-Western Provinces, and it is believed that two of those belong to 1865, as will presently appear, a fourth occurring in the present year.)</p> <p>DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL:—"On the 15th November 1865, a traveller arrived at one of the serais in the town of Seharunpore, and hired a pony to go on a journey into the next district; the man who accompanied him to bring back the pony was drugged shortly after his leaving Seharunpore, and the traveller made off with the pony. On the 2nd November (<i>query</i> 22nd) the same man hired a pony at Futteh-pore, 15 miles from Seharunpore, and the same result ensued. The poisoner then appeared a third time on the 3rd February 1866, at Kylas-pore, five miles from Seharunpore, hired a pony, and drugged the boy sent to bring it back. * * * One Kulloo, an old offender, was arrested, recognized in all these cases, and was tried and convicted before the Sessions Judge, and sentenced to a long term of imprisonment. Inspector Ahmed Hoossen by his local knowledge worked out this case, and did right well. A second case occurred in this district, and Major Watson was successful in arresting and convicting the offender." (MEMO.—The above shows that two of the three cases returned in Appendix I of the Police Administration Report, as of occurrence during 1866, really took place in 1865, and as they have been entered in the Thuggee Statement for 1865, they are struck out from 1866, and only <i>two</i> cases are returned in the present Statement.</p> |
| | | (3) SEHARUNPORE ... | 2 | |
| Crd. over | } 9 | 3 DISTRICTS ... | 5 | |

| GOVERNMENTS OR ADMINIS- TRATIONS. | NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH NO CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER AND NAMES OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER OF CASES | REMARKS. |
|---|--|--|-----------------|---|
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| NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES—continued. Brft. over | 9 | 3 DISTRICTS ... | 5 | <p>In regard to one of these two cases, the Deputy Inspector General wrote to the General Superintendent under date 17th February 1866, that the offender who had committed the two cases in the previous November, had "again appeared on the stage near Roorkee, about ten days ago, in the same district, and after repeating the deed exactly as before, walked off with the hired pony. * * * The man was described as slightly lame." MEMO.—<i>Vide</i> Sholapore in Bombay in the Statement for 1865, for a similar pony case at Kurmala.</p> <p>A criminal, named <i>Kulloo Rajpoot</i>, committed a case of poisoning at Bagput in Meerut on the 11th December 1860, by drugging the meal of a man and a woman who kept the serai or rest-house at which he had alighted. Sentenced to four years' imprisonment at Meerut, he was transferred to the Assistant General Superintendent at Lucknow, but was remanded to Jail to undergo his punishment, and if he was identical with the above man he could only recently have been released when he committed the cases just described. Or the criminal in them was, as probable, identical with another person named <i>Kulloo Lodhi</i>, who was sentenced in 1860 to 5 years' imprisonment for an act of the crime at Peshawur, while in the service of Captain Nairn of the Artillery, whose <i>mehter</i> he poisoned and robbed by drugging his coffee, 17th November 1859. This man was transferred to the Asst. Genl. Supdt. at Lahore, before whom he confessed to many similar acts of crime during a career of 11 years, including some cases of Thuggee, and of high-way robbery with murder, in different parts of India. While at Peshawur, he had also poisoned the <i>sirdar</i> bearer of Captain Taylor. (or Slater) of the Artillery, by drugging the man's tobacco, from whom he robbed several gold mohurs and other property. <i>The bearer died.</i> This Kulloo had several banded associates. He was remanded to jail, and his term of imprisonment could have expired but a short time prior to these renewed instances of the crime.</p> |
| | | (3) SEHARUNPORE— <i>contd.</i> | | |
| | | (4) BOOLUNDSHUHUR ... | 4 | <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE:—"Three cases of professional poisoning occurred, committed by the same <i>Brakmin</i> and <i>Kaeth</i> before mentioned—the offenders in a similar case in the Meerut district. Both have been arrested and sentenced to 28 years' rigorous imprisonment in the Boolundshuhur cases only."—(<i>Vide</i> Meerut and Etah.)</p> <p>But according to Appendix I, the cases in Boolundshuhur were <i>four</i> this year, which is the number here returned, but no account of them was given.</p> |
| | | (5) DEHRAH-DOON ... | 1 | <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE:—"No case of professional poisoning." (MEMO.—According, however, to Appendix I, there was one case, <i>viz.</i>, "of hurt by administering stupefying drugs." No account of it was given.)</p> |
| | | (6) BAREILLY ... | 3 | <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE:—"Two cases of robbery by professional poisoning, occurred,—in one the Police failed to trace the offenders,—in the other the Sessions Judge declined to convict, but one of the 3 offenders was fortunately sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment in a similar case which occurred in Budaon." MEMO.—Appendix I, however, gives <i>three</i> cases of the crime. No account of them was narrated.</p> |
| | | (7) BIJNOUR ... | 1 | <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE:—"The one case of administering drugs was not a professional case,—no conviction followed." (No account of it was given.)</p> |
| | | (8) MOORADABAD ... | 2 | <p>These two cases are taken from Appendix I of the Police Administration Report. No mention is made of them in the District Report, nor any account of them any where given.</p> |
| | | (9) BUDAON ... | 1 | <p>This case is not mentioned in the District Report, and is taken from Appendix I. No account was given of it. It must be identical with that for which a man was convicted and sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment after acquittal in one of the Bareilly cases.—(<i>Vide</i> Bareilly.)</p> |
| | | (10) AGRA ... | 2 | <p>These cases are not mentioned in the Statement for this District contained in the Police Administration Report, <i>but they were entered in Appendix I.</i> No account of it was given.</p> <p>DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL:—<i>Agra</i>.—"There are no new cases!"</p> |
| | | 10 DISTRICTS ... | 19 | |
| Crd. over | 9 | | | |

| GOVERNMENTS OR ADMINISTRATIONS. | NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH NO CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER AND NAMES OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER OF CASES. | REMARKS. |
|------------------------------------|--|---|------------------|---|
| | | | | |
| NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES—continued. | Brt. over } 9 | 10 DISTRICTS ... | 19 | Not alluded to in the District Report, but given in Appendix 1. |
| | | (11) MUTTRA ... | 1 | DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL:—"Muttra.—"One of the old cases was detected and the offenders punished." (MEMO.—According to this the case perhaps occurred at some former period, but Appendix I, in which this case was included, gives a list of cases, all of which were declared in the body of the Report to have taken place during the year under review. No account of it was given. |
| | | (12) FURRUCKABAD ... | 3 | INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE:—"Among the murders were three cases of professional poisoning. Concerning one of these, doubt is entertained of its being really a professional case, and in one the culprits were detected." DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL:—"I regret to say that three new cases occurred in this district, and the Police were not successful in bringing out any of them." Appendix I, however, returned only two cases, but as three were reported to this Office by the local Magistrate in a "Statement showing cases of Thuggee during the year 1866," that number is adhered to in the present Statement, and the following account of them is taken from the Magistrate's Report, viz:— (1) No date given.—"Serajooddeen and Nuzzur Alli Khan, merchants of Rampore, on returning from Mokunpore Fair, stayed in Serai Meeran, in the house of Joomun Bhatevara, where the defendant, in a Faqeer's dress was also living. The next day, in the evening, he made them smoke his hooka, and after taking their food they fell sick and senseless. He then robbed them of their money (Rs. 15-10-0.) and made his escape. He was apprehended, and released by the Magistrate for want of proof on the 22nd June 1866."—MEMO.—The culprit was a Brahmin. (2) 1st March 1866:—"Joomun and Peer Bux, travellers, were going on towards the Western Countries. A man, said to be a resident of Adjoodia in Oudh, accompanied them from Chowbeyepore to Jonedpore, where he poisoned and plundered them of their property valued at Rs. 1-11-0. Joomun died, and Peer Bux was found alive and was cured. No trace of the offenders has yet been found." (3) 14th June 1866:—"Deendyal, Brahmin of Koomhira, in Luckhimpore of Oudh, came to Furruckabad from Budree Narayan, and thence a man, who gave his name as Beharee Thakoor of Kookrel, accompanied him for Ninkhar. When they arrived at the shore of the Kaleo Nuddee near Kanouj, Beharee gave Deendyal a piece of melon and some goor (sugar), on eating which and drinking some water, he became senseless, and Beharee then robbed him of 16 gold beads to the value of Rs. 8, 2 silver Bandyas Rs. 6, a silver Suttia Rs. 3, and Rs. 3 in cash, with which he absconded. No trace of the offender or of the stolen property has yet been found." |
| | Crd. over } 9 | (13) ETAH ... | 2 | INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE:—"There were two cases of professional poisoning, one of them being committed by the Brahmin and Kaeth of Meerut and Boolundshuhur notoriety; in the other case the Police did not succeed in tracing the offenders." DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL:—"Meerut, Boolundshuhur and Etah.—I class these three districts together, as the six cases which occurred there during 1866 were committed by the same two men, who invariably gave themselves out as a Kaeth and a Brahmin. They have been arrested and are now under trial at Boolundshuhur, where they were recognized in 3 separate cases. This case is now being worked out, and as a great many other defendants are implicated (and you are aware of the steps being taken), it will be as well not to make the matter public until the whole case is complete." (MEMO.—Vide Meerut and Boolundshuhur, where it is shown that the above two men were sentenced to transportation for 28 years. It will be perceived that the cases in those two districts and in Etah together numbered eight and not six. |
| | | 13 DISTRICTS ... | 25 | |

| GOVERNMENTS OR ADMINISTRATIONS. | NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH NO CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER AND NAMES OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER OF CASES. | REMARKS. |
|---------------------------------|--|---|------------------|--|
| Brt. over | 9 | 13 DISTRICTS ... | 25 | <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE:—"Much credit is due to Major Tyrwhitt, Deputy Inspector General, for his successful detection and conviction of Kulloo, an old offender, concerned in no less than 3 cases of this year"—(<i>vide</i> Sheharunpore <i>supra</i>). "The Police are also to be congratulated on the arrest of the celebrated Brahmin and Kaeth concerned in some 9 or 10 cases. I had hoped Major Tyrwhitt would have given a succinct account of all the cases in which they were concerned, but from prudential motives, he refrained from publishing details till the whole case is complete."</p> |
| | | (13) ETAH—continued ... | ... | <p>MEMO.—It is stated of a poisoner seized in Etah in December 1866 at the fair held at Soron, that on his being searched, a large quantity of the seed of the black <i>Dhutoora</i> was found on his person. The account he gave of himself was that <i>he gave it as medicine to sick cattle</i>. He was brought before the sitting Magistrate, "but there was no law to detain the man. He came from a village near Hattiras, which is one of the head centres of professional poisoners."—<i>Vide</i> case, 20th September 1864, in Boolundshuhur, in the Thuggee Statement for 1864.—<i>A law making it penal to possess poisons, as advocated in my letter in the Home Dept. No. 930, dated 13th Sept. 1865, would have prevented this man's release with impunity.</i></p> |
| | | (14) ALLAHABAD ... | 2 | <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE:—"There was only one case of professional poisoning."</p> <p>DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE:—"Allahabad.—In June a woman and her child died from the effects of <i>Dhutoora</i> in <i>ata</i> (flour)—which <i>ata</i> was said to have been given to her husband, by a man at a fair, in exchange for tobacco—a very improbable story, as the person who gave it could in no way be benefitted by it. I believe it a family case." (MEMO.—The Magistrate has not, however, had any hesitation in duly returning it to this Office. His account of it is given below.</p> <p>One case only was also returned in Appendix I of the Police Administration Report; but as the Magistrate has returned <i>two</i> cases to this Office, and has given an account of them, <i>two</i> is the number adhered to in the present statement.</p> <p>MAGISTRATE:—"Robbery by administration of poisonous or deleterious drugs: 2 cases; concerned 3 persons; arrested 2; acquitted 2: loss Rs. 206-8-0; recovered <i>nil</i>.</p> <p>(1) 9th June 1864, 4 p. m.:—"Badameea and her daughter Maiko fell insensible and evinced marks of having been drugged. The latter died almost immediately, and the elder woman subsequently. Seo Persad, husband of Badameea, stated that they had been to a Mela or fair, where a man came and asked for tobacco in exchange for some <i>ata</i>. This <i>ata</i> or flour was baked in the evening into bread, on eating of which both females fell insensible. Nothing was found out in this case."</p> <p>(2) 13th March 1866:—"Two men arranged to spend the night with Jankee prostitute. She ate and drank with them. They gave her something which caused her to vomit, and she subsequently became insensible; during this state, jewels to the value of Rs. 178 were stolen from her."—(MEMO.—Similar instances of poisoning or strangling prostitutes and robbing them of their jewellery, will be found under Agra, 24-Pergunnahs, &c.</p> |
| | | (15) CAWNPORE ... | 7 | <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE:—"There were 7 cases of robbery by administration of poisonous drugs: detection followed in 6; and of 6 persons arrested, 4 were convicted." (MEMO.—No account has been given of these cases.)</p> |
| | | (16) FUTTEHPORE ... | 2 | <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE:—"There have been 2 cases of professional poisoning, in both of which the Police were successful."</p> <p>DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL:—"A heavy case, with murder, took place in May, and 2 persons out of 6 succumbed to the effect of the poison. The plaintiffs were travelling in a cart; and 2 persons took up with them about 4 miles from Futtehpore, and drugged the whole party. Fortunately the Police received information and were in time to arrest the offenders, otherwise they would have made off with the cart, victims, and all." (MEMO.—This would seem to be a re-appearance of the <i>Hackery</i> cases practised by Hursersad's gang—(<i>vide</i> Rhotuck and Futtehpore, in the Statement for 1865, and paras. 19 and 24 of my Report in the Foreign Department, No. 794, dated 15th September 1863).</p> <p><i>Appendix I was blank for Futtehpore (!)</i></p> |
| rd. ver | 9 | 16 DISTRICTS ... | 36 | |

| GOVERNMENTS OR ADMINISTRATIONS. | NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH NO CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER AND NAMES OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER OF CASES. | REMARKS. |
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| | | | | |
| NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES—continued. | Brt. over } 9 | 16 DISTRICTS | 36 | INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE:—"One robbery occurred by administration of poisonous drugs, and the case was prosecuted to conviction." Two cases were, however, entered in Appendix I of the Police Administration Report, and the following account of them is taken, moreover, from a Statement received from the Magistrate; two are therefore here returned, viz:— (1) 10th April 1866:—"Heera Kullar of Banda, and Khyaltee his cartman, were drugged, it is supposed, with <i>dhutoora</i> , on the Chhattara Road, by another of Heera's cartmen, Azmat Alli, and when in a state of intoxication, the perpetrator made away with a bag containing Rs. 325 and other property. The two persons, however, soon recovered, and Azmat Alli, on being traced and apprehended in the Futtehghur District, confessed and pointed out some of the stolen property. He was sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment. It is probable that he was concerned in similar cases, as he has two aliases, <i>Kulloo</i> and <i>Ghoorey</i> ." (2) 14th December 1866:—"Two travellers came to the house of Pirthee Gir Gosain, and after eating went to sleep, and next morning one of the travellers, Ramadheen, a Brahmin, was missing; and a box containing jewellery and money, said to amount to Rs. 190 in all, had also been taken away. No clue of Ramadheen has yet been discovered. It was at first said that <i>Bhung</i> had been administered to Pirthee Gir, but on enquiry, this was considered doubtful." |
| | | (17) BANDA | 2 | INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE:—"Two cases of professional poisoning were detected, and the parties concerned were arrested and convicted." (MEMO.—No account was given of either case) |
| | | (18) JOUNPORE | 2 | INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE:—"One of these cases of robbery was a poisoning case, and the poisoners were convicted." (MEMO.—This case was not entered in Appendix I, and no account of it has been given.) |
| | | (19) BENARES | 1 | INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE:—"There were three cases of administering poisoning drugs, in only one of which did the Police succeed in bringing the offenders to justice." |
| | | (20) GORUCKPORE | 3 | APPENDIX I:—Three cases; but no account has been given of them. |
| | | (21) AZIMGHUR | 1 | INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE:—"There was one case of professional poisoning in which the offenders were arrested, but unfortunately not convicted, and they were subsequently lost sight of." DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL:—"Mr. McCarthy was most successful in tracing out a <i>dhutoora</i> case committed by an old offender, one Azmat Alli, alias Kulloo, alias Goorah. This particular case occurred in April 1866, and the Police ran into their man in the Futtehghur District, recovering at the same time nearly all the property, close on Rs. 200." (MEMO.— <i>Vide</i> Banda Case, 10th April.—If the case here recorded, of which no description has been given, is distinct from that in Banda, it would seem that the culprit, Azmat Alli, after committing the crime in Banda, repeated it soon after in Azimghur, and was run down at Futtehghur. Mr. McCarthy on a former occasion, when he was Assistant Police Officer in Banda, rendered great assistance to the Assistant General Superintendent at Lucknow (Major Chamberlain), in prosecuting the gang of Hursersad, the famous poisoner of hackery cart-drivers.) |
| | | (22) MIRZAPORE | 1 | INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE:—"The Police also failed in prosecuting a bad case of dacoity with murder, as also a case of robbery after administering poison." (MEMO.—No further mention of this case is made, except that it appears in the series of cases recorded in Appendix I.) |
| | | (23) GHAAZEEPORE | 6 | INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE:—"There were no less than six cases of administering poisonous drugs, but in none of them did the prisoners belong to an organised gang." The Police Administration Report contains no account of these cases, and the following in regard to three of the number is obtained from Special Reports to this Office, viz:— |
| | | | | |
| Crd. over | 9 | 23 DISTRICTS | 52 | |

| GOVERNMENTS OF ADMINISTRATIONS. | | NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH NO CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER AND NAMES OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER OF CASES. | REMARKS. |
|---|---|--|---|------------------|--|
| NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES—continued. Brt. over | 9 | 23 DISTRICTS | ... | 52 | (1) 26th February 1866.—A Gorait found a boy lying senseless near a guava garden and brought him to a Police out-post. When he recovered his mind he said that at the bidding of his master Lalla Bahadoor Rai of Ghazee-pore, he went with some money and sweetmeats to some relatives at Shahabad. On his way he fell in with one Rampersad, who gave him some <i>choora</i> or parched rice with some <i>goor</i> or sugar, after eating which he became senseless and was then robbed. The criminal was traced by the Police to Ghazee-pore. The result of his trial was not stated. |
| | | (23) GHAAZEEPORE | ... | | (2) 17th March 1868.—The Gorait of Eusufpore brought a man to the Police Station in a state of insensibility, whom and a quantity of clothes and cooking utensils, he had found that morning lying on the ground at the house of one Gheeseewan Kulwar, who stated that the man had come there the evening before with two other travellers who appeared to be Mahomedans. They purchased some flour and <i>dal</i> and began to cook their food. Next morning the Kulwar found the man lying senseless in the verandah of the house, and that the other two men were gone away. One of them had been observed to throw away a pot with some cooked <i>dal</i> in it, on examining which some <i>dhatoora</i> seeds were discovered in it. The victim when he recovered, said that he was come up from Calcutta and had been joined by those two persons at the ferry at Buxar, who proposed to him in the ferry boat, to travel along with him. On the way he wished to part company, but they persuaded him to go on as far as Eusufpore, where the three put up at the Bunya's shop as above described. He cooked food for all. They told him to take as much of the <i>dal</i> as he wanted, and to give them the rest. He did so; he did not observe whether they also ate any of it, but they threw the pot away. "The <i>dal</i> did not taste bad, but the ghee with which it was cooked was not good." All then went to sleep, and the man remembered nothing more. He was robbed of his money and some clothes. |
| | | (24) JALOUN | .. | 1 | (3) 13th May 1866.—Two persons were found by the village Gorait, early in the morning, lying insensible at a shop at Gunspore, one a Hindoo and the other a Mahomedan. Two other persons had come to the shop late in the previous afternoon, and by and bye at dusk, these two men also came there accompanied by two others and by a woman, who said they only wanted to stay there for the night. Shortly after, one of the number purchased some flour, <i>dal</i> , and pickles, and cooked up some food. In the middle of the night it was discovered that two of the number had become insensible, and that the other five travellers had decamped. The Gorait and others followed them and eventually arrested the woman and three of the men as they were running quickly away. The other man had got away with the booty. An umbrella was picked up which they had thrown down and which belonged to the poisoned parties. <i>The poisoners had completely ingratiated themselves with their victims, and did every thing for them.</i> One man ate of the food they had cooked, and on his feeling unwell, one of the culprits began to rub his legs for him. The other not feeling hungry was persuaded to partake of some pickles, and then of a little sweetmeat. Both soon felt heated and lost their senses, and both were robbed. Two of the culprits and the woman were Mahomedans, but the woman pretended to be a Hindoo in the keeping of the third man who personated to be also a Hindoo. The arrested parties were recognized, but the result of the investigation was not communicated. |
| | | (25) LULLUTPORE | ... | 1 | INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE :—"There was one case of professional poisoning, which the Police failed to detect." (No account of it was given). |
| | | (26) GURHWAL | ... | 1 | The District Report says nothing of this case, but it is entered in the series given in Appendix I of the Police Administration Report. |
| | | | | | INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE :—"The case of administering stupefying drugs was an attempt to get a low caste man punished for having intrigues with two women who would have lost caste had the husbands prosecuted in the usual way." (MEMO.—This case is included for as much as it is worth.) |
| TOTAL over | 9 | 26 DISTRICTS | ... | 55 | |

| GOVERNMENTS OR ADMINISTRATION. | NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH NO CASES WERE REPORTED | NUMBER AND NAMES OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER OF CASES | REMARKS. |
|--------------------------------|---|---|-----------------|--|
| TOTAL Brt. over | 9 | 26 DISTRICTS | 55 | <p>According to Appendix I of the Police Administration Report, the cases numbered 51 only, and the difference is thus to be accounted for, viz. :—</p> <p>Cases according to Appendix I 51</p> <p>DEDUCT—</p> <p>2 cases for Saharanpore which belonged to 1865 ... 2</p> <p>REMAINING ... 49</p> <p>ADD—</p> <p>1 Omitted case for Saharanpore, obtained from the Report of the Deputy Inspector General ... 1</p> <p>2 Ditto ditto for Futtchpore ... 2</p> <p>1 Ditto ditto for Furruckabad, narrated by Inspector General of Police and confirmed to this Office by the Magistrate ... 1</p> <p>1 Ditto ditto for Benares, obtained from the District Report of the Inspector General of Police ... 1</p> <p>1 Ditto ditto obtained from a Special Report to this Office ... 1</p> <p>6</p> <p>TOTAL ... 55</p> <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE:—"The crime of robbery after administering poisonous drugs is, I regret to say, on the increase. There are 44 cases reported against 16 in 1865. The Police have, however, been very successful in tracing out and bringing to justice during the year several notorious offenders. Twenty-nine cases have been prosecuted to conviction, and of 68 persons concerned, 49 have been arrested and brought to trial, of whom 31 were convicted, 14 acquitted, and 4 remained under trial at the close of the year."</p> <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE:—<i>General Remarks</i>.—"Robberies by administering poisonous drugs, 47 cases in 1865 and 51 in 1866." (MEMO.—These 47 cases include other poisoning cases than those of robbery by professional poisoning).</p> <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE:—"Major Tyrwhit reports not a single case of thuggee has been reported, nor is there any reason to believe it has been practised during the past year. At the same time he warns District Superintendents that they cannot be too much on their guard or too careful in vigilantly watching and guarding against any renewal of this crime."</p> <p>DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL:—"Poisoning by administering any poison or any stupefying, intoxicating, or unwholesome drugs, &c.—This crime is, I am afraid, on the increase, though the Police have been very successful in tracing and bringing to justice during the year 1866 several notorious offenders." (<i>vide</i> the Deputy Inspector General's remarks on this subject in the Statement for 1864 in the Total column.) "Out of 49 persons arrested, 31 have been convicted and 4 remain under trial. Two of the four awaiting trial at Boolundshuhur are well-known and skilful poisoners—there being some 9 or 10 cases against them."</p> <p>"Robbery by administering poisonous drugs.—28 new cases for 1866 have to be added to 51 old cases of former years. In these 79 cases, 36 persons were brought to trial, 21 were convicted, and 13 acquitted, leaving two under trial. The largest recovery of property is in the Futtchpore District."</p> <p>DEPUTY INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE:—"Statement I, viz.—</p> <p>"THUGGEE.—Committed since January 1861, undetected on the 1st January 1866, 2 cases; occurred in 1866, <i>nil</i>."</p> |

TOTALING NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES—continued.

| GOVERNMENTS OR ADMINISTRATIONS. | NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH NO CASES WERE REPORTED | NUMBER AND NAMES OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH CASES WERE REPORTED | NUMBER OF CASES. | REMARKS. |
|------------------------------------|---|--|------------------|--|
| NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES—concluded. | | | | <p><i>"Robbery by administration of poisonous or deleterious drugs: committed since January 1861, undetected on the 1st January 1866, 99 cases; occurred within the year, 44—total number under enquiry 143; detected in 1866, 29; remaining undetected on 31st December 1866, 114; concerned in previous offences and at large on 1st January 1866, 112 persons; concerned in offences of 1866, 68 persons—total concerned, 180 persons; arrested 49; brought to trial 49; convicted 31; acquitted 14; remaining under trial 4; at large on 31st December 1866, 131 persons; plundered within the year Rs. 2,975; recovered in the year, Rs. 812."</i></p> <p>Statement II., viz., <i>Thuggee</i>, 1864, nil; 1865, one case; 1866. nil.</p> <p><i>Robberies by administration of poison</i>: 1864, 35 cases; 1865, 16, 1866, 44.</p> <p>MEMO.—There would seem to be some confusion in the above, arising, probably, from a distinction being attempted to be drawn between "professional poisoning," and "robbery by administering poisonous drugs;" 51 cases being given in one place, and 44 in another, under the former definition of the crime; and 28 other cases in another place under, it would seem, the other, according to which the entire number of cases would be swollen to either 72 or 79. It has been shewn that 55 would appear to be the real number of both items, one only of which in Banda, and another in Gurhwal were, perhaps, doubtful cases. It would be advisable not to endeavour to draw any such distinctions in respect to so secret and insidious a crime as poisoning, but rather to class every act of it together, and then to eliminate those which should, from the attendant facts, clearly prove to be cases of domestic treachery only, or committed from motives of revenge, enmity or intrigue.</p> <p>The details of arrests, convictions, &c., in the above cases, cannot be clearly shown in the present Statement, the information on those points being, it will have been perceived, partial, or not stated in every case, particulars being given in some cases and left out in others; reference for them should consequently be made to the Remarks for each district, where the information which was to be gleaned has been duly narrated.</p> <p>LIEUT.-GOVERNOR:—"There were 51 cases of robbery by administering poison, and of these 44 were cases of robberies by professional poisoners. This is a considerable increase over 1865, but the bulk of the cases have been successfully prosecuted."</p> <p>(End of North-Western Provinces.)</p> |
| OUDH. | 6 | (1) LUCKNOW .. | 4 | <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE:—"Of the murders by poison, 3 were ordinary, committed from motives of revenge; the fourth was a very peculiar case, committed for the purpose of getting rid of a man who was cognizant of a theft, and who, the guilty parties feared, would <i>peach</i>; unfortunately two other men partook of the food given to this man, and all three fell victims; this case was most admirably detected by Inspector Ramnarayan, and the guilty parties convicted. The District Superintendent wrongly describes this case as one committed for the sake of robbery."</p> <p>MEMO.—An additional case of murder, for the sake of robbery, is mentioned in the Police Administration Report for Oudh, in which the headless body of a man was found. The head was discovered some miles away, and the same Police Inspector "ultimately succeeded in bringing the culprit to justice." No further particulars were given of any of the above cases.</p> <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE:—"Three cases of robbery were by administering drugs; in 2 there were convictions as noted above (4 persons convicted.) The District Superintendent informs that the persons were not professional poisoners."</p> |
| Crd. over | 6 | 2 DISTRICTS ... | 7 | |

| GOVERNMENTS OR ADMINISTRATION. | NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH NO CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER AND NAMES OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER OF CASES. | REMARKS. |
|--------------------------------|--|---|------------------|---|
| | | | | |
| Br. over | 6 | 2 DISTRICTS... | 7 | <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE :—"Three murders by poison ; all cases committed for revenge, or through intrigues with women."</p> <p>COMMISSIONER :—"Three murders by poison in Hurdul ; none by professional poisoners."</p> <p>MEMO.—Classing all the murder cases together, the Police Administration Report stated that the Police made apprehensions in them all except one, and that not a single person sent up by them was acquitted, but it was not shown what was the Police action in each particular poisoning case. No separate account of the cases was given.</p> <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE :—"One murder by poison ; 6 persons being convicted."</p> <p>COMMISSIONER :—"One murder by poison in Mohumdee, not by professional poisoners." MEMO.—No account of this case was given.</p> <p>A Statement of cases of Thuggee in Fyzabad in 1866, received from the Deputy Commissioner, exhibited 2 cases, in which 20 persons were concerned, 6 being arrested ; but no account or other details of them were communicated, and it is supposed they were cases of <i>Dacoity</i> included by inadvertence in the Statement for Thuggee.</p> <p>One Sunshere Khan, of Kotedeeh, in Roodowlee of Durriabad, informed the Police of Gondah against his brother Madar, that he was living at Allinggur, under the assumed name of <i>Cheda Khan</i>, and that he was a professional Thug, who had escaped from custody, with his irons upon him, many years ago, and that he was a "wanted" man in the Thuggee Department.</p> <p>To this the General Superintendent replied, that the man had often been searched for by the Agents of this Department, but that he had always contrived to evade detection : that he escaped in 1836, before he had been brought to trial, and that there was ample evidence for his conviction at the time, but that it would be difficult to get him convicted at this distant period. His father, Ryman Khan, was a Thug, who died in jail at Lucknow, and his brother Hydar and son-in-law Buktawar, both deceased were Thugs, both of whom were approvers in this Department.</p> <p>The man admitted his escape, and his true name to be <i>Madar</i> ; he said that, ever since his flight, he had been living at Babrampore, in the service of the Rajah of that place, whose guns he took care of when he went out shooting. He was transferred to the Depot of the Thuggee and Dacoity Department at Jubbulpore, and being there identified by surviving approvers, was, in view to a legal authority for his detention and enrolment in the Depot at Jubbulpore, placed upon his trial on the general charge of being a Thug, under Act XXX of 1836, and was sentenced to imprisonment for life, under date 3rd November 1866. He died in November 1867.</p> <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE :—"One murder by poison from motives of revenge, in which conviction took place." (MEMO.—No account of this case was given.)</p> <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE :—"Two of the murders were by poison." (MEMO.—No account of the case was given.)</p> <p>The third case is obtained from a special report, and was a case of robbery by administering poisonous drugs, viz. :—</p> <p>14th May 1866 :—"A woman and two men had arrived at Allypurgur 15 days previously, and lodged at the house of one Khooshall ; they did not say from where they had come, but their names were Oree and Bachoo, and the woman's name was Achayia. They drugged their host and left his house, taking away from it several articles of property to the value of Rs. 41." Nothing further was communicated in this case.</p> |
| | | (3) HURDUL ... | 3 | |
| | | (4) LUKHIMPORE (MOHUMDEE) ... | 1 | |
| | | (Fyzabad) ... | ... | |
| | | (Gondah) ... | ... | |
| | | (5) ROY BARFILLY .. | 1 | |
| TOTAL Crd. over | 6 | (6) SOOLTANPORE ... | 3 | |
| | | 6 DISTRICTS... | 15 | |

OU DH—continued.

| GOVERNMENT OF ADMINISTRATION. | NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH NO CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER AND NAMES OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER OF CASES. | REMARKS. |
|-------------------------------|--|---|------------------|---|
| TOTAL Brit. over | 6 | 6 DISTRICTS ... | 15 | <p><i>Eleven</i> of these cases were attended with the deaths of the persons drugged; 7 of these were stated in the Police Administration Report, to have been committed from motives of revenge, and one for the purpose of getting rid of an accomplice in another act of crime, for fear of his betraying his associates. Of the 3 remaining murder cases, one (in Luckimpore) was declared not to have been the deed of professional poisoners, and regarding the other two, no remarks were made.</p> <p>The remaining 4 cases would not seem to have been attended with murder, and one of them, in Sooltanpore, was added from a Special Report to this Office.</p> <p>But according to the Table at page 43 of the Police Administration Report, there were no more than 9 cases of murder by poison, "22 persons seized in 9 cases." That Table does not exhibit the number of <i>poisoning cases</i> of occurrence in 1866, in which death did <i>not</i> ensue; but it shows 205 cases of "grievous hurt" and 20 of "robbery with hurt," and these may include some cases of poisoning not attended with death.</p> <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE:—"Nine cases of murder by poison, all of these were from motives of revenge, family quarrels, or the results of intrigues with women.*.* In 8 of the cases of poisoning, 3 were convictions and 2 remained under trial.*.* I think it would be desirable to have another sub-division to the head of murder, <i>viz.</i>, by poison for the sake of robbery."</p> <p>"<i>Robbery by administering poisonous drugs.</i>—In the year under review 13 robberies by administering drugs have been reported, to 15 in 1865; in 6 of these cases, apprehensions were made; in 4 cases convictions obtained, 1 acquitted, and 1 case under trial at the close of the year; in every case most close and searching enquiry has been instituted, and I do not believe that any of the cases, except perhaps one, was the work of professional poisoners; in almost all the other cases, the parties who committed the crime are known to the Police, and absconded after the commission of the offence. In 2 cases the criminals were previously known to the persons they poisoned. Considering the number of vegetable poisons that grow in every jungle, and the intimate knowledge the most ignorant of the people have of their properties, and the careless way in which travellers will join company with any stranger they meet on the road, if of the same caste, eat and smoke with such persons, it is only astonishing that this mode of robbery is not practised to a greater extent." MEMO.—According to the above, these 13 cases would be additional to the 9 attended with murder, or rather to 11 cases attended with murder, <i>which would swell the total number of poisoning cases in Oudh in 1866, to twenty-four.</i> A reference has been made to the Inspector General of Police enquiring whether they were really additional cases, or inclusive of the cases with murder. It is supposed that they are additional cases, and if so, the remark would here again be applicable, that it is hazardous to attempt to draw distinctions in this crime, except the motives under which it was committed, should be patent or palpable.</p> <p>(<i>The Police Administration Report for 1866, notices the increase of the crime of kidnapping children "which for the first time has this year attracted special notice,"—but whether any of them were, what is in this department called Megpunnna Thuggee, i. e., kidnapping children by murdering their parents, by poison, strangulation, or other foul means, does not appear.</i>)</p> <p>Appendix No. II of the Police Administration Report shows that 19 persons were convicted in 8 cases of murder by poison, including one man in one case of 1865.</p> <p>Appendix No. 4 shows the castes of the 19 convicted parties, <i>viz.</i>, 2 <i>Chettries</i>, 8 <i>Aheers</i>, 1 <i>Lodha</i>, 1 <i>Passee</i>, 1 <i>Nao</i>, 4 <i>Mahomedans</i>, 1 <i>Lohar</i> and 1 <i>Koonjra</i>.</p> <p>CHIEF COMMISSIONER:—"The Chief Commissioner is glad to observe that you have reason to believe that robbery by administering 'poisonous drugs,' has ceased to be the work of organized gangs. Mr. Strachey concurs in the remark that, considering the ease with which vegetable poisons can be obtained, the general knowledge of their properties, and the remarkable carelessness of the people, it is a matter of surprise that this crime is not more frequent."</p> |

| GOVERNMENTS OF ADMINISTRATION. | NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH NO CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER AND NAMES OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER OF CASES. | REMARKS. |
|--------------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| OUDDH—concluded. | | | | <p>Arrests and other particulars of Police action in the cases for Ouddh, returned in the present Statement, not being uniform in each case, a recapitulation of the action in the entire number is not here given, the information in respect thereto, which was to be gathered from the Police Administration Report, having been duly noticed against each district in the column of remarks.</p> <p>No case of Thuggee by strangulation was reported, and it is not known what the <i>two</i> so called cases may be which are noticed under Fyzabad.</p> <p>(End of Ouddh.)</p> |
| PUNJAB. | 13 | <p>(1) UMBALLA ...</p> <p>(2) LOODIANA ...</p> <p>(3) DELHI ...</p> <p>(4) GOORGAON ...</p> <p>(5) HISSAR ...</p> | <p>6</p> <p>1</p> <p>6</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> | <p>{ Six, according to Table A., and to Appendices I and III of the Police Administration Report, under cases of "administering stupefying drugs with intent to hurt." No account of any of them has been given. According, however, to the District Report, there were 3 cases of "murder by poison for plunder," and 6 cases of "simple murder by poisoning"—total 9 cases!</p> <p>{ This has been classed in the Police Administration Report as a case of "robbery effected by poisoning;" no account of it was given.</p> <p>{ According to Table A., and Appendices I and III of the Police Administration Report,—but according to the District Report, the cases (under three classifications) numbered <i>three</i> only!</p> <p>{ One case according to the District Report and to Appendix I, but two cases, under distinct classifications, according to Appendix III of the Police Administration Report. No account of the case here returned was given, the following being taken from a Special Report of it to this Office, viz. :—</p> <p>(1) 6th December 1866:—A man in the garb of a Fugueer, named Gurreeb Shah of Benares, poisoned three Cabul traders travelling from Delhi. They had all put up at the <i>seraie</i> at Patowdee, where they cooked their food and slept out the night. The pretended Fugueer had made up some <i>Mulleeda</i> or sweet cake. Next morning all proceeded towards Rewaree, and on reaching Murree, they took some breakfast. It was on this occasion that he gave some of the <i>Mulleeda</i> to the three travellers, on eating which they became insensible and were robbed. The culprit was arrested at the <i>seraie</i> at Rewaree, and a quantity of <i>dhutoora</i> seed was found in his possession. He was sentenced to 7 years' imprisonment, and a fine of Rs. 50.</p> <p>{ This case does not appear in the Police Administration Report, and it is here added from a Report to this Office from the Deputy Commissioner of Hissar. It took place at Futtiabad in May 1866, (exact date not stated). I visited the spot, where I heard a further account of it. The culprit was a man named Roora. He hired the camel of a man of the weaver caste, and poisoning the man who went in charge of it, named Pirbhoo, a Bishnoo, rode off with the animal to Hissar itself. He was there seized on suspicion, but managed to effect his escape from the lock-up. The poisoned man had died from the effects of the drug administered, and the corpse was so decomposed, that it could not be recognized. His clothes were, however, identified. It was, moreover, proved that Roora had not only borrowed his camel, but had gone to Futtiabad with him, and further, that he came alone with the camel to Hissar at night. He was eventually seized at Narnoul with some sort of powder in his possession, in which <i>dhutoora</i> was discovered. He was tried, however, it seems, for some other case in Hissar, in which he had drugged a person named <i>Mamun</i>, and was sentenced to 7 years' imprisonment. The date of the occurrence of that case was not, however, stated; nor of two other cases committed by him in Hissar, in both of which he had similarly hired camels, poisoned their owners, and carried away their camels. In these two latter cases, the victims were Sewukram</p> |
| Crd. over | 13 | 5 DISTRICTS... | 15 | |

| GOVERNMENTS OR ADMINIS- TRATIONS. | NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH NO CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER AND NAME OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER OF CASES. | REMARKS. |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|------------------|---|
| Brt. over | } 13 | 5 DISTRICTS... (5) HISSAR—continued .. | 15 | <p>and one Bishnee. In two of the occasions, he was accompanied by a female named <i>Chandnee</i>, and he had some other accomplices. Another case against him in Hissar, was the disappearance of one Jungal, the driver of a cart and bullocks which he had hired of one Cheetur at Hansi. The cart and bullocks were robbed. The date of this last case was not stated. Thus there were, it seems, <i>four</i> cases in Hissar, in addition to the case here returned for 1866, but it is unknown when they took place. It is believed; however, that they also occurred in 1866. More will appear about this man Roora under Rhotuck. It may, however, be here noticed, in reference to the bullock-cart case, that it would seem to be a repetition of the celebrated <i>Hackery</i> cases so often before alluded to in the present and former Statements, the perpetrators of which extended their depredations from Bundlekund to Allahabad and Hurdwar in one direction, and along the Goorgaon, Rhotuck, Hissar, Jheend and Pattiala line of country, in the other.</p> <p>Two cases according to Appendices I and III of the Police Administration Report, but only <i>one</i> according to the District Report under the heading of "robbery effected by poisoning."</p> <p>The following account of one of these cases was given by the Superintendent of Police, Captain Boddam, viz:—</p> <p>"This case occurred on the 23rd April 1866. The complainant, Oodnee, was found rambling about <i>drunk</i>, as was at the time supposed by the zemindars, near the village of Bhaprowda in the Sampla Thana, Rhotuck District; he was taken to the Police Station, whence he was sent on to the Rhotuck Hospital. On arrival here he stated that four months previously, he met the accused Roora in company with two young women in village Bunianee, near Rhotuck; that being a widower, and in search of a wife, he got into conversation with the accused, who described himself as Khajooa <i>Dann</i> of city Rewaree, in the Goorgaon District, and offered to select a handsome bride for him, and arrange all the necessary preliminary negotiations, in view of bringing about a marriage. Oodnee then gave his address to accused who engaged to pay him a visit in a fortnight, and let him know the result of the negotiations."</p> <p>"Oodnee and accused then came together to Rhotuck where they separated. After fifteen days accused paid the promised visit, and stated that he had found a fine young woman in the adjoining native States, who was willing to marry, and that she was waiting in the village Bunianee. Oodnee accordingly started with him, and at mid-day reached the tank at Rohud, on the Delhi Road. Accused then proposed to dine, and offered Oodnee some sugar, <i>as he being of a different caste, could not partake of food cooked by accused</i>. Oodnee ate the sugar with some parched gram that he had with him; they then proceeded a couple of miles, when Oodnee found himself getting intoxicated, and his limbs becoming powerless; soon afterwards he became insensible. On recovery he discovered that he had been robbed of the money he had about his person, as well as of the new coat he purposed wearing on appearing before his expected bride."</p> <p>The accused was hereupon tracked from place to place most perseveringly by Mr. Charle, the Police Superintendent of Rhotuck, from British territory into Native territory, and <i>vice versa</i>, then back into the Jheend and Nabha States, to Laharoo and Patowdee in the estates of the Nawabs of those places, thence to <i>Puttiala</i> in Hissar, and then to Hissar itself, where it was ascertained he had recently poisoned a Bishnee and robbed his camel, was arrested for it on suspicion, but had escaped from the Police lock-up (<i>vide</i> Hissar). "At Hissar was found Roora's favorite walking stick, which his victim Oodnee at once recognized, and this circumstance removed all doubt that the escaped prisoner was the identical Roora whom the Rhotuck Police were in pursuit of." Here the clue was lost, but as it was discovered that he occasionally visited two women, named Lalee and Sahibee, at Bhurtpore, with whom he had intrigues, and that his wife Chandnee occasionally accompanied him on his poisoning expeditions, the research was carried to Bhurtpore, and he was eventually seized by the Puttiala authorities at Narnoul "where he was found going about the bazaar drunk."—Taken to Hissar, he was there sentenced to 7 years, as already shown under that District; for the Rhotuck case, two years more of imprisonment was added to him; and then on his being tried again and again in other cases, and convicted five times, his punishment came up at length, to a period of 19 years in transportation.</p> |
| Crd. over | } 13 | 6 DISTRICTS... | 17 | |

| GOVERNMENTS OR ADMINISTRATIONS. | NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH NO CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER AND NAME OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER OF CASES. | REMARKS. |
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| PUNJAB—continued. | } 13 | 6 DISTRICTS ... | 17 | |
| | | (6) RIOTUCK,— <i>contd.</i> ... | | <p>He had been tried at Goorgaon, previous to the above events for a similar offence at Kanouj (date of occurrence not given.) and being acquitted was sent under escort to Jeypore to be tried for another case committed in that territory,—<i>but while en route he dragged his guards and escaped!</i> He was probably assisted on this latter occasion,—for he had asked to be allowed to enter his own house which lay on the way, and permitted to do so, had brought away some sweetmeats from it, which he began to eat and offered some to his guards <i>by way of acknowledgment of their kindness</i>:—“They at first declined, but seeing him eat, they at last took some too, and of course soon dropped senseless on the road.” It was my desire to have the man sent to Jeypore to be tried there for this and the former case of occurrence in that territory, my aim being to have him made altogether impotent for future mischief <i>by a sentence for life</i>; but it was thought by the local authorities that he might again escape on the way, so that he was sent to fulfil the term already awarded him. I think, however, that he is still in some jail in this country.</p> |
| | | (7) LAHORE ... | 2 | <p>Two cases according to Appendices I and II of the Police Administration Report, but <i>three</i> according to the District Report, <i>viz.</i>, 2 cases under “simple murder by poisoning,” and 1 under “poisoning with intent to commit robbery.” No account of any of them was given.</p> <p>(The following account of a case of strangulation in Lahore, is taken from a Special Report to this Office, <i>viz.</i>):—</p> <p>(1) 11th April 1866:—“The body of a girl was found near Sahunkee, concealed in a hollow, with unmistakable marks of strangulation upon it. The deceased was about 20 years of age, was living with her parents, and had left the house at dark on the previous evening, for, it was supposed, a purpose of nature. She had ornaments on her person which were not found upon her corpse. A male relative was suspected, who had liaisons with other members of the family, and was known, it was said, to have harboured similar intentions in regard to the deceased. The relatives and the village head-men, however, believed that the deed was committed by some persons who were passing through the village that night from the Thumman Fair. It was further reported of this case, that the girl’s life was taken “in the old professional way by the roomal,” but the Deputy Commissioner reported that “there was very little ground for believing the case to be one of professional Thuggee.” (It has not, therefore, been taken into the account.)</p> |
| | | (8) UMRITSUR ... | 3 | <p>Three cases according to Appendices I and III of the Police Administration Report, but <i>four</i> according to the District Report, <i>viz.</i>, 1 case of “simple murder by poisoning,” 2 cases of “robbery effected by poisoning,” and 1 case of “poisoning with intent to commit robbery.” No account of any of these cases was given.</p> |
| | | (9) GOORDASPORE .. | 1. | <p>One case according to Appendices I and III, but <i>blank</i> according to the District Report. No account of it was given.</p> <p>One Jotee Kular, a one-eyed man, was this year convicted for cases of poisoning committed by him in this district in 1861 and 1862, and sentenced to an additional 14 years’ transportation, he having previously been sentenced to 4 years for a case of similar occurrence in Umritsur in 1865. (MEMO.—<i>Vide</i> Umritsur in the Statement for 1865).</p> |
| | | (10) JULLANDUR ... | 1 | <p>One case according to Appendices I and III, but <i>two</i> according to the District Report under “simple murder by poisoning.” No account of any was given.</p> |
| | | (11) HOOSHYARPORE ... | 2 | <p>These two cases appear in the District Report, under the heading of “simple murder by poisoning.” No account of it was narrated.</p> |
| | | (12) KANGRA ... | 1 | <p>One case according to Appendices I and III, but <i>blank</i> according to the District Report. No account of it was given.</p> |
| | | (13) RAWAL PINDEE ... | 1 | <p>This case appears in the District Report, under “simple murder by poisoning.” No account of it was given.</p> |
| | | 13 DISTRICTS ... | 28 | |
| Crd. over | } 13 | | | |

| GOVERNMENTS OR ADMINIS- TRATIONS. | NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH NO CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER AND NAME OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER OF CASES. | REMARKS. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|------------------|---|----------------------------------|--|----------|--------------------------------|-----|------|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|---|-----|-----|---------------------------|--|----|-------------------------------|-----|-----------|--|----|---|---------------------------|---|---|
| PUNJAB—concluded | Brt. over } 13 | 13 DISTRICTS ... | 28 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | (14) JHELUM ... | 3 | { Three cases according to Appendices I and III of the Police Adminis- tration Report, but <i>not any</i> according to the District Report. No account of them was given. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | (Shahpore) ... | ... | { There was one case in this District according to Appendix III of the Police Administration Report, but which is considered to be a mistake, as Appendix I and the District Report were blank. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | (15) GOOJRAT ... | 1 | { One case according to Appendix I, <i>two</i> cases according to Appendix III, and <i>not any</i> according to the District Report. No account of the case here returned was given. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | (16) GOOJRANWALLA ... | 1 | { One case according to Appendices I and III, but <i>not any</i> according to the District Report. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | (Mooltan) ... | ... | { No cases according to Appendices I and III of the Police Adminis- tration Report, but <i>two</i> according to the District Report under " <i>murder by poison for plunder</i> !" No account of them was given. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | (17) PESHAWUR ... | 7 | { Seven cases according to Appendices I and III, but <i>not any</i> according to the District Report. No account of them was narrated. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | (18) HUZARA ... | 3 | { Three cases according to Appendices I and III, but the District Report was <i>blank</i> ! No account of them was given. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | (19) BUNNOO ... | 2 | { In the District Report, 3 cases appear under " <i>poisoning with intent to commit robbery</i> ." No account of them was stated. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | (Dera Ghazee Khan) ... | ... | { No cases according to Appendices I and III of the Police Adminis- tration Report, but <i>one</i> case according to the District Report under the classification of " <i>simple murder by poisoning</i> ." No account of it was given. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| OTAL | 13 | 19 DISTRICTS ... | 45 | <p>These cases include one additional case obtained from a Special Report (<i>vide</i> Hissar), and they accord, too, with the number to be gleaned from Appendix III of the Police Administration Report, but are one more than the number given in Appendix I.</p> <p><i>But they do not accord, as will have been perceived, with the number of cases given under the District Reports embodied in the Police Administration Report. In the District Reports, the crime undergoes four classifications, and is detailed as follows, viz. :—</i></p> <table><tr><td>Murder by poison for plunder ...</td><td>...</td><td>5 Cases.</td></tr><tr><td>Simple murder by poisoning ...</td><td>...</td><td>16 "</td></tr><tr><td>Robbery effected by poisoning ...</td><td>...</td><td>6 "</td></tr><tr><td>Poisoning with intent to commit robbery ...</td><td>...</td><td>5 "</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES ...</td><td>32</td></tr></table> <p>According to the above, there were 21 cases of murder by poisoning, and not only does the total number of cases here shown, differ from the number recorded in Appendices I and III, but according to Table A of the Police Administration Report, a further discrepancy is apparent, the number of cases of murder by poison being there stated to have been 15 only!</p> <p>Again,—according to Table A, the following would seem to be the detail of poisoning cases in 1866, viz. :—</p> <table><tr><td>Murder by poison as above ...</td><td>...</td><td>15 Cases.</td></tr><tr><td>Hurt by means of poison or stupefying drug ...</td><td>44</td><td>"</td></tr><tr><td>Poisoning for plunder ...</td><td>1</td><td>"</td></tr></table> | Murder by poison for plunder ... | ... | 5 Cases. | Simple murder by poisoning ... | ... | 16 " | Robbery effected by poisoning ... | ... | 6 " | Poisoning with intent to commit robbery ... | ... | 5 " | TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES ... | | 32 | Murder by poison as above ... | ... | 15 Cases. | Hurt by means of poison or stupefying drug ... | 44 | " | Poisoning for plunder ... | 1 | " |
| Murder by poison for plunder ... | ... | 5 Cases. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Simple murder by poisoning ... | ... | 16 " | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Robbery effected by poisoning ... | ... | 6 " | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Poisoning with intent to commit robbery ... | ... | 5 " | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES ... | | 32 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Murder by poison as above ... | ... | 15 Cases. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hurt by means of poison or stupefying drug ... | 44 | " | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Poisoning for plunder ... | 1 | " | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| GOVERNMENTS OR ADMINISTRATIONS. | NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH NO CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER AND NAME OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER OF CASES. | REMARKS. |
|---------------------------------|--|--|------------------|---|
| PUNJAB—concluded. | | | | <p>According to this account, the grand total would seem to amount to <i>as many</i> as 60 cases; according to the District Reports, the cases would be 32 only; according to Appendix III they would be 45, <i>viz.</i>, "hurt by means of poison or stupefying drug with intent to cause murder," 44 cases, and "poisoning for plunder," 1 case; and lastly, according to Appendix I, they would amount to 44!</p> <p>But while with the exception of one case of "poisoning for plunder" entered in Appendix III of the Police Administration Report, the total number of cases in that Appendix agree with the total number given in Appendix I, <i>the cases themselves</i>, which are detailed for each District in Appendix III, would, when totalled, come up to 46! In the uncertainty caused by these discrepancies, the number of cases which have been detailed for each District in Appendix I of the Police Administration Report, is the number which is adhered to in the present Statement, with the addition to it only of the extra cases in Hissar obtained from a Special Report to this Office.</p> <p>If the two cases of "murder by poison" noticed under Mooltan are taken into the account, the totalling would undergo a further change! <i>Why were those cases left out?</i></p> <p>Appendix III of the Police Administration Report, shows that 29 persons were convicted in the 14 cases of "hurt by means of poison or stupefying drug, with intent to commit murder" of occurrence in 1866, and 3 persons in 1 case of "poisoning for plunder;" but as shown under Goordaspore, it would seem that the latter three, include one man reckoned twice over, <i>viz.</i>, Jotee, the one-eyed poisoner, who was tried in two cases of occurrence in 1861 and 1862, so that the total number of convicted persons in cases for 1866, would perhaps amount to 30.</p> <p>According to Table A, and to both Appendices of the Police Administration Report, there was no case of thuggee <i>properly so-called</i>, and perhaps the case recorded in the remarks for Lahore may not, under the present information of it, be called a case of <i>real</i> thuggee.</p> <p>The following case of occurrence in the contiguous Native State of Jheend, in 1866, was tried <i>in Karnaol</i>, a District of the Punjab, and is therefore here recounted as another instance of poisoning Hackery Drivers such as has been recorded in the present Statement, under Hissar in the Punjab, and Banda or in the North-Western Provinces,—and under Rhotuck and other places in the Statements for 1864 and 1865, <i>viz.</i>—</p> <p>On the 30th of January 1866, one Balakee reported at the Pancepnt Station, that a person had hired his cart from Pattiala to Jheend, and that when he had gone about 8 koss from Jheend, the traveller who had hired the cart, administered some <i>dhutoora</i> to him, and after he became insensible the man went off with his cart and bullocks. The criminal in this case, by name <i>Gopal</i>, was intercepted by the Police while crossing the Jumna River with the cart and bullocks in the ferry boat at the Surhowlee Ferry. The victim's shoes and quilt were also found in his possession, and he was thereupon sentenced to 7 years' transportation.</p> <p>(End of the Punjab)</p> |
| | 14 | (1) JUBBULPORE ... | 2 | <p>TABLE II. OF THE POLICE ADMINISTRATION REPORT:—"Murder by poison," one case. No account of it was given.</p> <p>INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE:—"There was a case of robbery after administering poisonous drugs; it appears to have been committed by a man, on three masons of the Railway work with whom he was then living. The District Superintendent has not included it in his Table of crimes, under the head of robbery, <i>but it has been inserted under that heading</i> in this Report. The Police failed in this case, which does not appear to have been one of professional poisoning."</p> <p>SPECIAL REPORT:—"24th April 1866.—Some <i>dhutoora</i> was mixed with some <i>ata</i>, which was eaten by three masons employed on the Panyut Bridge, East Indian Railway. Suspicion fell on a man named Sheikh Oomur, who occupied the same tent, but nothing could be proved against him. No further account of it was given.</p> <p>(MEMO.—There are indications from other instances of crime in the neighbourhood of Jubbulpore, both before and subsequent to the above crime, which lead to a belief that a professional poisoner was concerned in the above case.)</p> |
| Crd. over | 14 | 1 DISTRICT ... | 2 | |

| GOVERNMENTS OR ADMINISTRATIONS. | NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH NO CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER AND NAME OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER OF CASES. | REMARKS. |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|------------------|---|
| | | | | |
| Brt. over | 11 | 1 DISTRICT ... | 2 | |
| | | (1) JUBBULPORE,— <i>contd.</i> ... | | (The following case taken from the Police Administration Report, is here merely adverted to, in passing on, &c.:—"In the fifth case (of murder) committed for the sake of robbery, both husband and wife were found strangled in their house. It was at first returned as a dacoity with murder, but the Magistrate expressing his opinion that there was positive proof of its being murder and not dacoity, the case is transferred to the former heading. Four (out of seven persons supposed to be implicated in this case,) were arrested and sent up for trial, but were acquitted by the Magistrate.") |
| | | (Soneer) ... | ... | A case is given in a "Statement of cases of Thuggee," received from the Deputy Commissioner of Soneer, of the seizure and punishment of some professional criminals who were going about the country as <i>Mool-lance Banjara</i> hs (who are a class of dacoits.) But it was obviously neither a thuggee or a poisoning case; it is, however, mentioned in passing on. |
| | | (2) BAITOOL... | 1 | This has been returned in Table II. of the Police Administration Report, as a case of murder by poison, but it was not alluded to in the review of the District. No account of it was given or reported to this Office. |
| | | (3) BHUNDARA ... | 1 | POLICE ADMINISTRATION REPORT:—"In the case of murder by poison, the defendant, the son of a Malgoolzar, of Mogia in the Bhundara Circle, was sentenced to death."—This case was also included in Table H. It would not seem to have been a case of professional crime, but no account of it was communicated. |
| CENTRAL PROVINCES— <i>continued.</i> | | | | POLICE ADMINISTRATION REPORT:—"In a case of attempt at murder by poisoning, the defendant was punished with imprisonment." No further account of this case was given. |
| | | (4) WURDAH ... | 2 | INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE:—"There was one case of theft by administering stupefying drugs. This occurred in the Wardah District, and was the work of professional poisoners, who, I am glad to say, were apprehended, convicted, and sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment." This latter case was specially reported to this Office. Two persons, a man and his servant, were travelling in a cart with a considerable sum of money from Raepore to Arvee. At the Telunkherce Tank at Nagpore, they fell in with two other travellers, with whom they journeyed as far as Tulleyganm near their destination, and there they all cooked their meal in a kind of garden. When all had nearly dined, the strangers pressed the two travellers to partake of some of their curry or chutney. In half an hour after eating it they both became insensible, and while in this state were robbed of their money. "That same night both criminals were caught at the Salwarce outpost, and in their possession was found a bag of money which amounted to exactly the same sum which the travellers had been robbed of, Rs. 748-8, while the other poisoner was found wearing the shoes which belonged to another of the men." In their possession was found some <i>chutney</i> , but this on being analysed, was declared by the Chemical Examiner, not to contain any deleterious thing. The case was nevertheless a very clear one, and both poisoners were sentenced to 5 years' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of 50 rupees. Their names were Burrum Dutt and Gungadeen; and the latter was supposed in this Department, to be identical with a man who had in 1861, committed a similar act of crime in the Humeerpore District in which three persons were poisoned. MEMO.—It should seem that there were two cases in this District, one being an attempt to murder by poison and the other a robbery by poison:—in one 1 defendant, in the other 2; but neither are mentioned in Table H. of the Police Administration Report, except they should be included under some other of the crimes enumerated in that Table. |
| TOTAL | 14 | 4 DISTRICTS .. | 6 | POLICE ADMINISTRATION REPORT:—"Murder by thugs, <i>blank</i> ; murder by poison, 3 cases against 1 in 1865." INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE:—"Murders by poison increased by 2 cases, but there was no case of murder by professional poisoners." |

| GOVERNMENTS OR ADMINISTRATIONS. | NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH NO CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER AND NAME OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER OF CASES. | REMARKS. |
|---------------------------------|--|--|------------------|--|
| C. PROVINCES—concluded. | | | | <p>The Police Administration Report does not show how many cases of poisoning, <i>without murder</i>, took place in the Central Provinces in 1866. From the remark against the case in Jubbulpore of the poisoning of 3 masons, to the effect that it had been included under the heading of <i>robbery</i>, and from the circumstance that the the case of "attempt to murder by poison" and that of the "robbery by poison" in the Wurdah District, did not appear in Table H. of the Police Administration Report, under any distinct heading, it is believed that cases of poisoning which did not result in the death of any of the drugged parties, were included in Table H. under the heading of either "robbery" or "robbery with hurt or deadly weapons"—of the former of which there were 47 cases, and of the latter 3 in the Central Provinces in 1866; but it would be convenient, if all cases of poisoning, of whatever nature, were placed under a distinct column, and a classification of them given in the body of the Report.</p> <p>It will be observed that mention was made in the Police Administration Report of 6 cases only, which is the number given in the present Statement. Three of those cases were attended with murder, and there was besides, 1 case of the murder of 2 persons by strangulation which may or may not have been the deed of professional criminals (<i>vide</i> Jubbulpore.)</p> <p>(End of Central Provinces.)</p> |
| MADRAS. | Not Stated. | NOT STATED | None Specified. | <p>Except that in North Arcot "four cases of robbery by drugging men were brought to light during the year in this District, and committed to Court, but the prosecution was unsuccessful," the crime is no where else distinctly mentioned in the Criminal Statistics for Madras for 1866.</p> <p>The Tables of Statistics for Madras exhibit that 242 cases of <i>murder</i>, 311 of <i>grievous hurt</i>, and 202 of <i>hurt</i>, took place during the year; and some of these, were no doubt effected by means of poison, particularly some of the two last of the series, the Sections of the Indian Penal Code under which the whole number of those cases were investigated, comprising those particular Sections (324, 325, 326 and 328,) which provide for cases of <i>hurt by poison or deleterious drugs</i>; but the actual number of such cases cannot be gathered from those Tables.</p> <p>POLICE ADMINISTRATION REPORT:—"No case of thuggee was reported during the year. But several cases of robbery by drugging with dhutoora, were brought to light and were prosecuted during the current year."</p> <p>(End of Madras.)</p> |
| BOMBAY. | 29 | (1) KAIRA | 1 | <p>TAKEN FROM THE CRIME TABLE:—"One case of causing hurt by means of poison, &c., with intent to commit an offence under Section 328, Indian Penal Code." No account of it was given in the Crime Report.</p> <p>The following case is here only noticed in passing on:—</p> <p>SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE:—"In one case of murder, the accused was discharged by the Assistant Magistrate. A fisherman of Soneepoor in the Thusra Division was missing, and on enquiry evidence was adduced to the effect that he had been murdered by one Jussoo Jalum. Some bones and a skull, supposed to be those of the missing man, were found near the river Myhee. The trying Magistrate, however, dismissed the case, there being no proof of the missing man having been murdered, nor of the identity of the remains."</p> |
| | | (2) KHANDEISH | 2 | <p>One of these two cases is taken from a "Statement of cases of thuggee" received from the local Magistrate, and the other from the District Crime Report, viz:—</p> <p>(1) 30th October 1866: "Hazzaree, son of Hingna, his wife and 2 sons, were proceeding from Hindoostan to Parola, and had halted at Palasnair, when they were joined by a stranger who induced them to let him accompany them. On their way they cooked their food and sat to eat it, when the stranger gave them some <i>chutney</i> to eat; they eventually became intoxicated, and whilst in that state, they were robbed of 8½ rupees." (<i>Vide</i> a <i>chutney</i> case in Wurdah under the Central Provinces.)</p> |
| Crd. over | 29 | 2 DISTRICTS | 3 | |

| GOVERNMENTS OR ADMINISTRATIONS. | NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH NO CASES WERE REPORTED | NUMBER AND NAME OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER OF CASES. | REMARKS. |
|---------------------------------|---|--|------------------|---|
| Brt. over | } 29 | 2 DISTRICTS | 3 | <p>(2) SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE:—"The sixth case of attempt to murder occurred at Bhurgaum, Pimpulnair Division, on the 12th December. One Hurree, son of Nahar Singh, Rajpoot, proceeded to the house of Maynee, the wife of one Govind Geer Gosain, in her absence, and mixed poisonous drugs in her flour. Hurree was apprehended and sent for trial to the full power Magistrate, but was discharged for want of proof."</p> <p>The Crime Report for Khandeish, also gives the following case, 12th March 1866:—"The body of a man was found lying by the side of the road between Yawull and Atrawul. From the marks of burns on the body, it was concluded that the man had been murdered. It was discovered to be the body of a man named Zendia Chamhar of Shirsad, and on information given by Mahada, Gungajee and Mowjee (Chamhars,) the last two being eye-witnesses of the murder, arrested three other Chamhars as the perpetrators of the crime. They were sent for trial to the full power Magistrate in charge of the District, but were discharged for want of sufficient evidence" (MEMO.—<i>It seems from the evidence, that the so-called eye-witnesses merely desired to implicate some obnoxious caste people. A man is seldom killed out-right from burns, except received in a conflagration; and from some similar instances in other places, e. g., case No. 3 under Monghyr in Bengal, in the Statement for 1865, it seems more probable that the man was poisoned, fell into the fire where he had cooked his food, and then wandered about unconsciously to the spot where his body was discovered. But this is here stated only for as much as it is worth, for the case is not included in the present Statement.</i>)</p> <p>The Statement of cases of thuggee received from Khandeish, contained another case of so-called "thuggee,"—but it has not been accepted as such, and is only here described in passing on, viz. :—</p> <p>SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE:—"The ninth murder took place at Toowurkhera on the 16th August. The circumstances attending this extraordinary case are as follow:—On the day in question one Tapee, wife of Tewajee, proceeded to a neighbour's house, leaving her infant, aged about 2½ days, in the charge of her daughter, 9 years old, and on her return found the infant missing. Her daughter told her that another woman named Bheemee had taken away the child, saying her mother had sent for it. The dead body of the infant was found buried under Bheemee's cot. On being questioned, she said that having no child, she consulted a wandering Gooroo, by name Gopal Dass, who told her that if she would bring him an infant, he would ensure her having offspring. She accordingly brought Tapee's infant, which the Gooroo took together with some lemons in his arms and turned round Bheemee seven times. He then buried the infant under her cot, and for the performance of this ceremony received from her one rupee. Both the Gooroo and Bheemee were committed to the Sessions, but were acquitted for want of sufficient evidence. On the man Gopal Dass' acquittal I again arrested him and referred the case to the General Superintendent of Thuggee and Dacoity, feeling sure that Gopal Dass was a professional Thug. Colonel Hervey directed the prisoner to be sent to the Assistant General Superintendent at Indore, and the last I heard regarding him was, that he was not acknowledged in the place to which he stated he belonged." (MEMO.—He mentioned the names of acquaintances at Kotah, and stated that he resided there, but was repudiated at that place. He died of cholera.)</p> <p>(Four other cases of poisoning are mentioned in the Crime Report for Khandeish, one by means of arsenic, and three with pounded glass, but these were merely attempts on the part of wives, summarily to get rid of their husbands by poisoning their food.)</p> <p>The following is here only noticed in passing on :—</p> <p>SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE:—"The third case of murder was committed on the 16th September. One Joora Ibrahim, a cart driver in the employ of Mr. Stewart, purchased a lot of arsenic in the town, and mixed it in the food of one of his fellow-servants, whom he suspected of being too intimate with his wife. The consequence of this was that two men and a boy died, but a peon who was also poisoned, recovered. That there was no conviction in this case was, no fault of the Police."</p> <p>The following cases are recorded in the Crime Report for this District, and are also only noticed without being taken into the Statement, viz. :—</p> <p>(1). "A man had poison administered to him while ill, purporting to be medicine, from the effects of which he died. There was not sufficient proof against the perpetrators to cause their committal."</p> |
| Crd. over | } 29 | 2 DISTRICTS | 3 | |

BOMBAY—continued.

KHANDEISH,—*contd.*

(PUNCH MEHALS)

(TANNAH)

| GOVERNMENTS OR ADMINISTRATIONS. | NUMBER OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH NO CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER AND NAME OF DISTRICTS IN WHICH CASES WERE REPORTED. | NUMBER OF CASES. | REMARKS. |
|---------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------|---|
| Brt. over | 29 | 2 DISTRICTS ... (TANNAH)— <i>contd.</i> ... (AHMEDNUGGUR) ... (3) TOWN AND ISLAND OF BOMBAY ... | 3 3 | <p>(2). "A similar case to the last. The crime could not be proved against the accused, and was therefore discharged by the Magistrate."</p> <p>The following case was given in a "Statement of cases of Thuggee" received from the local Magistrate, but as it was not stated how it was committed, whether by poison or by some other means, it is here only noticed in passing and is not included in the Statement, viz. :—</p> <p>"Nassick Town : implicated 2 persons ; arrested 2. No one was murdered. This was only a case of attempt to commit murder. Both parties have been sentenced each to 2 years' rigorous imprisonment."</p> <p>CRIME TABLE :—"Administering poisonous drugs with intent to commit an offence, 3 cases ; apprehended 5 persons ; discharged 5, (four males and one female.)" No account of these cases was given.</p> |
| TOTAL | 29 | 3 DISTRICTS ... | 6 | <p>These cases comprise all that can be gleaned from the different Police Reports received in this Office, from the Bombay Presidency, not reckoning the 10 exceptional cases noticed above in the column of Remarks).</p> <p>It seems very probable, however, that some further cases of poisoning took place in the Districts of that Presidency, for the Crime Tables for the Districts comprising the Northern Police Division, for instance, show that besides several cases of murder, certain other cases were investigated under the Sections of the Indian Penal Code (324, 325 and 326,) but only one case under 328, (<i>vide</i> Kaira,) which provide for "<i>hurl</i>" by poison as well as by other means ; but as it was not specified how many were cases of poisoning, their number cannot be here shown. No Crime Table or any District Reports were received for the Southern Division, but only blank Statements of cases of Thuggee properly so called.</p> <p>(End of Bombay).</p> |
| MYSORE. | Unknown. | UNKNOWN ... | Unknown. | <p>No Police Administration Report or Crime Tables were received in this Office for Mysore, from which cases, coming under the present Statement, might have been collected.</p> <p>A Blank Return of cases of Thuggee proper, was received from the Office of the Judicial Commissioner for Mysore and Coorg.</p> <p>(End of Mysore).</p> |
| HYDRABAD ASSIGNED DIST. | Not specified. | NOT SPECIFIED ... | Not specified. | <p>No mention is made in the Police Administration Report for these Districts, of any cases of poisoning distinctly as such,—but among the several Sections of the Indian Penal Code under which it was shown that 27 cases of <i>hurl</i> and four of <i>grievous hurl</i> were investigated, appear those particular Sections thereof (324, 325, 326 and 328) which specially provide for poisoning cases, showing that some must have occurred. Six cases of murder and three of attempts to murder, are also stated ; but how many of all of these were cases of poisoning, cannot here be shown.</p> <p>(End of Hyderabad Assigned Districts).</p> |

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE ;
DELHI,
The 9th May 1868.

CHAS. HERVEY, Colonel,
General Supdt. of Operations for the
Suppression of Thuggee and Dacoity.

ABSTRACT STATEMENT of reported cases of poisoning throughout British Territory in the year 1866, as gathered from the several Police Administration Reports and from other sources:—

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------------|
| Bengal | ... | ... | ... | ... | 23 cases. |
| North-Western Provinces | ... | ... | ... | ... | 55 „ |
| Oudh | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15 „ |
| Punjab | ... | ... | ... | ... | 45 „ |
| Central Provinces | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 „ |
| Madras | ... | ... | ... | ... | None specified. |
| Bombay | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 cases. |
| Mysore | ... | ... | ... | ... | Unknown. |
| Hydrabad Assigned Districts | ... | ... | ... | ... | None specified. |

Total of *reported* cases, exclusive of three provinces ... 150

MEMO.—No uniform account having been given of the Police action in these cases, how many persons died from the effects of the poison which had been administered to them, or any other usual particulars, no detailed account thereof can here be shown, but the Remarks will be found to contain more or less information on the subject. For the reasons therein explained, it is concluded that many more cases of the crime of poisoning took place throughout the country, than is here returned.

The column of Remarks also notices some cases which are other than those here returned.

Three cases of murder by strangling have also been noticed in the column of Remarks, *viz.*, one in Bengal, one in Lahore, and one in Jubbulpore.

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE ;
DELHI,
The 9th May 1868.

CHAS. HERVEY, *Colonel*,
General Supdt. of Operations for the
Suppression of Thuggee and Dacoity.

APPENDIX II.

Accompanying Thuggee Statement for 1866, being Extract paras 3 to 24 from the Report on the Detective Department as contained in the Police Administration Report for Bengal for 1866.

“ In the investigation of the poisoning cases, the Department worked chiefly on information obtained in 1865, with the object of detecting the accomplices of the men who had been successfully prosecuted in Monghyr and Bhaugulpore.”

“ Three men belonging to the Bhaugulpore gang, Boodhoo, Phooloo, and Nunkoo, were arrested by the Special Inspector, and sent up to the Magistrate of Bhaugulpore, who committed them for trial to the Court of Sessions, as they were implicated in the Colgong case, mentioned in page 139 of the Police Report for 1865. The Judge in that case recorded that ‘ the Assessors, after expressing their horror at the disclosures made by the confessing parties, gave their own opinion that Boodhoo, Phooloo, and Nunkoo were equally guilty of the charges.’ ”

“ The two men, Rajbullub and Sookrun, who proved themselves so useful in bringing to light so many cases last year, were unable to restrain themselves this year. In endeavouring to enrich themselves they have met the punishment which they so richly deserved. They had confessed to having drugged and robbed two women in the bazaar of Toolsheepore ;—when two of their gang, Bhugbut and Lakha, were with them, and that Lakha had taken a fancy to a highly ornamented bamboo *lattee*, or stick, which he had appropriated to himself. The Special Inspector, finding Lakha’s name mentioned in so many confessions, searched his house at Parthoo, in the Patna District, and found there a quantity of suspicious property ; and, amongst them, a handsome stick, which Rajbullub declared was the one he had obtained at Toolsheepore. The Special Inspector then proceeded to Toolsheepore and ascertained that two women, Dhurshance and Choonee, had been drugged and robbed about eight months ago. These two women stated that three travellers had put up in the house of Kharoo Moodee ; they came to their house and proposed passing the night with them. In the evening, when the men came, Choonee was cooking ; they sent her to purchase some liquor, and Dhurshance had occasion to go out at the same time ; and they believe the men must have taken this opportunity of poisoning their food ; for shortly after they had eaten their dinner, they became insensible, and remained in this state for two or three days. When they recovered their senses, they found themselves robbed of every thing they possessed. These women, before the Magistrate, recognized Rajbullub, Sookrun, and Bhugbut, as the three travellers who had been to their house on the night in question ; and also identified the stick found in Lakha’s house, and stated that they had purchased the stick from Beerbul of the same village, who, in his evidence before the Magistrate, clearly recognized the stick, and described the ornamental work on it. He further stated that he had sold the stick to Dhurshance. The Magistrate made Rajbullub and Sookrun Queen’s Witnesses, sending up Bhugbut for trial. It appears, however, that Bhugbut had paid Sookrun and Rajbullub a hundred Rupees, and these men, without actually falsifying the case gave contradictory evidence, believing the Court would acquit the prisoner Bhugbut. But their conduct was brought to the notice of the Court, and the contradictions were so palpable and wilful, that the Judge convicted Rajbullub and Sookrun on their own confessions, corroborated by the facts ascertained on these confessions ; and Bhugbut, on the evidence of the two women, which corroborated the evidence of Rajbullub and Sookrun. They were each sentenced to ten years’ imprisonment. The lesson read in this case to Queen’s Witnesses will, it is to be hoped, prove salutary.”

“ Lakha Doshad was subsequently arrested at Patna by the Police, on information furnished to the Superintendent by this Office. After his arrest, the District Superintendent sent him up on a charge of having drugged and robbed one Bhckah Passin ; and the Magistrate of Patna committed him for trial to the Sessions. The Judge, however, discredited the evidence of Bhckah Passin, and the Jury released the prisoner.”

“ On learning that Lakha was about to be released, application was made to the Magistrate of Bhaugulpore, bringing to his notice that Lakha had been concerned in a case of Dacoity at Colgong, and had broken Jail; and also that there was evidence against him in the Toolsheepore case. Lakha was accordingly transferred from Patna to Bhaugulpore. The Magistrate of Bhaugulpore committed him for trial on a charge of Dacoity at Colgong; and of drugging and robbing the two women at Toolsheepore. At the trial, Lakha pleaded guilty to both charges, and was sentenced to seven years' rigorous imprisonment for the first, and seven years' for the second case.”

“ In paragraph 166 of the Police Report for 1865, Lakha is correctly described as one of the *Surdars* or Chiefs of the gang of Poisoners in the Patna District. The gangs in that District remained untouched, and several cases of Poisoning had been recently reported, in which the Police had failed to discover the perpetrators. Lakha, at the same time, offered to assist the Police in the detection of his gang. Application was accordingly made to the Government for permission to make Lakha over to the Police, for detective purposes in the Patna District. By Government letter No. 476, dated the 19th of January 1867, the proposal was sanctioned, and Lakha was sent to Patna in charge of the Special Inspector. The prisoner was taken before the Joint Magistrate, where he detailed the circumstances connected with eight cases of robbery by means of Drugging, some of which were attended with murder.”

“ It may be here remarked, that investigations founded on information furnished by *prisoners* are attended with great difficulty. First, there is a strong prejudice against acting on statements made by a convicted felon;—inexperienced Magistrates, who have no *practical* knowledge of the Criminal class, are unreasonably sensitive on this point. In every country in the world, the evidence of accomplices is made use of when a gang or association of criminals is sought to be destroyed. Such evidence, if corroborated, is always regarded as legal evidence; and hundreds of criminals have been convicted and punished on similar evidence. But the prejudice is so strong, and the often repeated ‘charges’ of torture, and ‘moral pressure’ are so easily credited, that it is very difficult for a Police Officer, however anxious he may be to perform his duty, steadily to pursue the object he has in view; he is assailed on every side, and any judicial Officer has it in his power to record unpleasant remarks, which, however untrue and unsupported by evidence are, to say the least, exceedingly injurious. Again, Poisoning cases generally do not come to light until after the lapse of a considerable period of time—the victims are generally travellers from *different* Districts, and often from distant Provinces, who not only neglected at the time of occurrence to give any information to the Police, but are exceedingly unwilling to come forward, and subject themselves to the harassment of a *double* prosecution before a Magistrate, and ultimately before the Court of Sessions. There is, again, the unwillingness of the authorities to credit statements of recognition after such a lapse of time.”

“ Lakha stated that in the month of Chyete last, Dharce Sahoo told him that Teluk Sing was waiting for him; on his going, he found Teluk Sing seated by a well—which is in a garden at Parthoo—and a traveller was sitting by him. On seeing Lakha, Teluk Sing got up and met him, and whispered to him that the traveller had 117 Rupees with him; and that Lakha should go on the road with Gowree, Dahoo, and Roocha, and that he would follow with the traveller. Lakha did as he was told. After Teluk had joined them, Dharce Sahoo prepared two *lotahs* of sherbut; in one Poison was put; this was given to the traveller, when he was tired and thirsty. They went a little further, when the traveller said he felt giddy and strange, and wished to go into a village which was close by. Teluk Sing then remarked ‘if he goes to the village, we shall find it difficult to rob him; we must put an end to his life.’ Teluk Sing and the rest murdered him by squeezing his private parts, while Lakha watched that no person approached; after he was dead, the gang helped themselves to the 117 Rupees he had, and threw the body into the river Punpun.”

“ The Special Inspector learnt that his case had been investigated by the Police last year, when Boroo Gwala was committed to the Sessions on a charge of having murdered the travel-

ler, but was released. On examining the record of the case, the Special Inspector found that three men, named Hiramun Brahmun, Bijlee Dosad, and Bodie Dosad had testified at the investigation, that they had seen Teluk and others throw a body into the river. The Chowkeedar of the village Syebur had also stated, that Teluk had shewn him the body, and had prevented his giving information at the Thanah. The Special Inspector also ascertained, on enquiry, that there was no doubt whatever, that Teluk Sing had made away with the body of the traveller. The corroborative evidence being good, the Special Inspector sent up Teluk Sing for trial, naming the witnesses Hiramun, Bijlee and Bodie Dosad, and the Chowkeedar of Syebur, as corroborative evidence. The Magistrate at the time had credited this evidence, and had summoned Teluk for concealing evidence by making away with the body."

"In this case it was necessary to take the evidence of Lakha. The Joint Magistrate of Patna did so on the 1st of April, but subsequently declared he had done so under a mistake; and wrote a long explanation why Lakha should not be made a Queen's Witness under Section 209. He re-examined the witnesses who had deposed in the first investigation; declared their evidence untrustworthy, because the Deputy Magistrate had discharged Teluk after Baroo Gwalla had been released by the Court of Sessions; and also urged that the evidence of the witnesses named by the Special Inspector was apparently rejected as untrustworthy, or even concocted evidence." The Joint Magistrate also speculated on the motives which may have induced Lakha to confess."

"It is not material to the case what were Lakha's motives in confessing. The real question was, whether the case was true or false? The corroborative evidence had been acted upon by the Magistrate in the first investigation, when on that evidence he had summoned Teluk. At that time no one suspected that Teluk was privy to the Murder: the impression then was, that Borroo was the murderer; and it is not surprising that the evidence of the Chowkeedar and the three witnesses were then regarded as unconnected, and therefore suspicious and inconsistent. The confession of Lakha threw a light on that evidence, which now was perfectly consistent and truthful. It appeared to the Police, that there was *prima facie* evidence against Teluk, and that the charge was sufficiently established to warrant a commitment. The Joint Magistrate, however, thought otherwise, and released the prisoner, without making any fresh investigation into the case."

"In another case, Lakha stated that he, and his gang, last year, had drugged a Rajpoot at Panapore, when on his way from Midnapore to Chuprah. The Special Inspector, after some delay, ascertained that one Tokun Roy was returning home from Midnapore with property belonging to his son Rowshun Roy, who had been employed in the Police of that District as a constable, but who had died there, and whose effects had been made over to him by the District Superintendent of Midnapore. Lakha stated that he had made the articles over to the same Teluk Sing who belonged to the gang. The Special Inspector, finding that Teluk Sing was implicated in the case of murder, and that there was evidence to show he had disposed of the body, proceeded to search Teluk Sing's house, and found a quantity of suspicious property. Tokun Roy claimed certain of these articles. Application had been made to the District Superintendent of Midnapore to know if Rowshun had been a Constable in the Midnapore Police, and if his effects had been made over to his father Tokun Roy. The District Superintendent in his letter, dated 7th May 1866, sent a list of the property which had been made over to Tokun Roy. In that list two brass *thalas* are mentioned, which were found on Teluk Sing. There is a great deal said about the impossibility of recognizing *brass plates*; but a plate which a native uses every day of his life, he can identify quite as well as any gentleman will tell his hat, or his gloves. In this instance, however, the *thalas* are peculiar to the Midnapore District, and cannot be easily procured in Behar; and the Sub-Inspector and two constables of Midnapore, who had lived with Rowshun, and had *daily* used the plates, clearly identified them. There is the direct evidence of Lakha corroborated in this satisfactory manner, and there is the fact that this very Teluk Sing was connected with the mysterious murder of Hiramun: the Joint Magistrate, however, discharged the prisoner."

"Lakha further stated that eighteen months ago, Gawaree, Dahoo, Roocha, and Purtah Gwala followed a man connected with the Post Office. On their reaching Pursa, they offered

to drink with the traveller. He purchased some liquor, and they all drank. Lakha then bought some more liquor, and in the cup which he gave the traveller, managed to drop *dhatoo* powder, which took effect before they had proceeded far, and the traveller became giddy and fell. The gang took from him a gold *kordhane*, a rupee, and a *dhootee*."

"On enquiry, the Special Inspector ascertained that a peon in the post Office, employed at Bakhtarpore, had been drugged and robbed. With the assistance of the Post Master of Bankipore, the peon, named Ramobotar, was sent for: his story corroborated Lakha's statement. He stated that in the month of Kartic or Assin, he was returning from his father Umritlall with a goat; on the road he fell in with four or five men, who gave him something to drink with liquor, and on his becoming insensible, robbed him of a waist chain."

"The case had excited attention amongst the people connected with the Post Office at the time of its occurrence; and the Special Inspector learnt that Bolaki Hirkura had seen Ramobotar, while suffering from the effects of the drugged spirits. In this case, the Special Inspector succeeded in arresting one of the gang, Pertab Gwala, and sent him up for trial, on the evidence of Lakha and of Ramobotar, who positively identified him as one of the men who had drugged him. There was evidence also adduced to shew that Lakha and Pertab Gwala were associates, and usually seen in company with each other."

"The Magistrate in this case discharged Pertab Gwala, and committed Lakha for trial to the Sessions, on his own confessions, having refused to make him Queen's witness against Pertab Gwala. The case was brought to the notice of Government. Lakha was acquitted by the Court of Sessions, and was sent back to the Department to be employed for detective purposes."

"Lakha in his confession further stated that he and Metoo Doshad and others of his gang had drugged a washerman at Digah, and had robbed him of a pair of gold earrings and some sweetmeats, and other catables. On enquiring amongst the washermen at Digah, the Special Inspector ascertained that one of them, named Bola Dhoba, had been drugged. The washerman, on being traced, stated that about two years ago, when going to his father-in-law's house, he purchased some liquor at a grog-shop, near Digah, and journeyed in company with four or five men. That, leaving the liquor on the road, he went a short distance, to answer a call of nature. He returned and drank the liquor, and went back to the shop, and asked for a *chelum* of tobacco. Two men sitting at the shop gave him a *chelum* to smoke. Soon after he felt giddy, and the shop-keeper turned him out of the shop. He recollects leaving the shop, and the two travellers following him, and that he fell down senseless when he came near a garden. The washerman recognized Lakha and Metoo Doshad, and declared, he had been drugged by means of the tobacco which the two men had given him to smoke. It was also evident from the statement of Inspector Hurdutt Sing, that the washerman had lodged a complaint at the Thannah at the time he was drugged; but unfortunately no records relating to the case could be discovered. In this case, the Joint Magistrate committed Metoo Doshad to the Sessions, without examining Lakha as a witness on whose confession the case had been brought to the notice of the Police; but, while doing so, he stated in his remarks, 'that he did so with much hesitation.' The Jury acquitted the prisoner, because the Judge did not consider the identification of the prisoner by his victim sufficient; and because he had not given a descriptive roll at the time. If the evidence of the traveller who has been drugged, corroborates the confession of one of the gang, such evidence has been considered sufficient for conviction in a number of cases confirmed by the High Court. It is also possible for a man, belonging to the class of Bola Dhoba to recognize a fellow traveller after the lapse of two years, though he may fail to give a descriptive roll of the man, according to rule and compass."

"There are a great number of other cases in which Lakha's confessions have been corroborated by enquiries made on his statements; these cases are pending further enquiry. Another member of the same gang, named Dahoo, (who has since been arrested) has confessed before the Magistrate of Chuprah, to a number of cases, which were also mentioned by Lakha."

The information furnished by Lakha and Dahoo, will enable the Police to detect the members of this mischievous gang of poisoners."

"Two cases of drugging travellers had been made over to the Detective Department, at the requisition of the Officiating Deputy Inspector General of the 3rd Circle."

"In one of these cases, the Police of Patna made Uzgur Alli prosecutor with three others, while one Baboo Khan was made the defendant. The Special Inspector Nobokisto Ghose, after examining the men who had been drugged, reported that it was evident to him that Uzgur Alli was the principal defendant, and that Baboo Khan belonged to his gang; and the former had deceived the Police by feigning to have been drugged. The reasons which induced the Special Inspector to come to this conclusion, were the repeated attempts which Uzgur Alli made to obtain possession of money, which Kalay Khan, one of the travellers, had in his possession. Kalay Khan, after selling some horses, was returning home with the money; at Buktearpore he met Uzgur Alli, who suddenly professed great friendship for him, accompanied him to Patna, and secured him lodgings in the City. He then attempted to sell to Kalay Khan some *gilt brass* ornaments as gold. Uzgur Alli then induced his friend to advance Rs. 8 to two *Debeewallahs*, and also to start with him for Benares. They were to leave by the train; and his pretended servant, Baboo Khan, was sent on ahead to prepare dinner at Uzmur Khan's *Serai*. Uzgur Alli, Kalay Khan, and the two *Debeewallahs* reached the *Serai* about 8 o'clock at night; Baboo Khan had there cooked dall and rice. The two friends ate out of one plate, but Kalay Khan remarked that Uzgur Alli did not eat the dall. The two *Debeewallahs* and a beggar, who lived at the *Serai*, named Bechoo, also partook of the dall and rice. After eating the food Kalay Khan complained of feeling giddy, and went to the house of a friend who lived near the *Serai*, named Chowdry Sha, where he soon became insensible. The two *Debeewallahs* and Bechoo also became insensible at the *Serai*. Baboo Khan decamped, and his pretended master found it was his only plan to feign to be himself drugged. He acted his part so well, that he succeeded in deceiving the Police, who sent him to the Hospital. It will be remarked, that Kalay Khan, by proceeding to the house of his friend, unconsciously foiled Uzgur Alli in this his second attempt to obtain possession of his money. Uzgur Alli informed the Police, that his servant Baboo Khan was the delinquent, that he was an inhabitant of Ghazee-pore,—and that Baboo Khan had robbed him of a Hoondee for 200 Rupees. Had the Police enquired where he had obtained the Hoondee, there is no doubt the trick would have been discovered. Uzgur Alli succeeded better in his third attempt to defraud his victim. He induced Kalay Khan to trust him with 10 Rupees, under the pretence that he would secure Railway Tickets. Kalay Khan believing that Baboo Khan had drugged the party, and that Uzgur Alli was a fellow sufferer, gave him the 10 Rupees; with these ten rupees Uzgur Alli decamped. Then Kalay Khan's eyes were opened, and he discovered the character of his pretended friend. On learning the above particulars, an experienced Police Officer at once came to the conclusion, that Uzgur Alli was the real defendant in the case, and that Baboo Khan most likely belonged to the gang."

"In the second case made over to the Department, which occurred at Pursah, one of the travellers who had been drugged, and who lived at Nobutpore, in the Patna District, arrived. On examining her, she stated that a man had joined her party, (consisting of four other travellers) at Jahana, on the Gya road, while they were returning from Calcutta. On reaching Pursa, this man very officiously collected pice from the party of travellers, and offered to purchase food and cooking materials. He did so, and after they had eaten, he persuaded them to hurry on to Metapore, on pretence of meeting the train, but, in truth, to get them out of the public *serai* at Pursa. On the road, the drug began to affect the travellers, and they lay down near Metapore, where they were found by the Police, robbed of all the ready money they had. The description the woman gave of the man, agreed exactly with that of Uzgur Ali; she was accordingly taken to Burh where Uzgur Alli had been sent. The Deputy Magistrate placed Uzgur Alli with seven or eight others, taken from the crowd, and the woman, when brought in, at once recognized him as the man who had met her at Jahana, who had purchased dall and rice for the party at Pursa, and who had disappeared when the

travellers fell down near Metapore, where they lost their money and clothes. The Deputy Magistrate took down the woman's statement on oath."

"The Magistrate committed Uzgur Alli to the Sessions on these two charges, but the Jury acquitted the prisoner. The best commentary that can be offered on the verdict of the Jury in these two cases, is the fact that a few days after Uzgur Alli was convicted by another Jury, of having caused the death of a traveller, by drugging him; and has been sentenced to capital punishment, thus proving that he belonged to a gang of poisoners."

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